This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

FAMILY PRAYERS
FOR A
FORTNIGHT

44.831.

FAMILY PRAYERS

FOR A

FORTNIGHT.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

"Men ought always to pray and not to faint."—*Luke* xviii. 1.

"Lord, teach us to pray."—*Luke* xi. 1.

LONDON:

J. HATCHARD & SON, 187, PICCADILLY.

1844.

N.B. Any Profits arising from the Sale of this Work will be given to the Society for the Relief of Poor Pious Clergymen.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY G. J. PALMER, SAVOY STREET, STRAND.

THE valuable labours of the Society for the Relief of Poor Pious Clergymen of the Established Church, have now been carried on for fifty-six years; and though, perhaps, not sufficiently known and supported by the Christian public, have become the source, in very numerous instances, of comfort and timely assistance to a class of persons to whom freedom from the anxieties of pecuniary embarrassments is pre-eminently desirable.

Treasurer.

Samuel Tomkins, Esq., 76, Lombard-street.

Secretary.

Rev. W. Goode, A. M. F. A. S., 31, Charterhouse-square.

Assistant Secretary and Collector.

Mr. S. Downer, 141, St. John's Road.

By any of whom subscriptions and donations will be received; or by Messrs. Hatchard and Son, Piccadilly.

PRAYERS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O ETERNAL and most merciful Lord God Almighty, who hast instituted this holy day in memorial of thy rest from the creation of the world, and of the resurrection of "Jesus our Lord from the dead;"[a] be graciously pleased, we humbly beseech thee, to illuminate and warm our hearts with the bright and quickening rays of that "dayspring from on high"[b] which dawned upon the earth when He ascended from the tomb.

As this first day of the week is pre-

[a] Romans iv. 24. [b] St. Luke i. 78.

eminently the Lord's day, we would fervently entreat Thee, O holy "Spirit of wisdom and revelation," to "glorify Jesus"[c] on it to our view. Teach us some of the great and profitable things which relate to the mystery of His glorious Person, the value of His wonderful work, the freeness and fulness of His great salvation, and the condescension of His unspeakable love in giving Himself for His Church; "that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."[d] O deign to grant that these glorious subjects, which fill angels and glorified saints with wonder and delight, may not be shrouded in darkness from us; but teach us to consider them with reverence and attention, and enable us so to behold the glory of Jesus the Saviour of sinners, as individually to say, "He is all my salvation, and all my desire."[e] By nature we can perceive "no

[c] St. John xvi. 14. [d] Eph. v. 25, 26.
[e] See 2 Sam. xxiii. 5.

form nor comeliness in Him;"[f] though He is the well-beloved of the Father, and the delight of all His people. While loving sin, or pleasing ourselves with fancied righteousness in self, our conceptions of Him must necessarily be foolish and grovelling. O make us therefore willing to see ourselves as we really are, to be shown the sinfulness of sin, and to be convinced that "all our righteousnesses"[g] are nothing but "filthy rags," that so we may be mercifully constrained to seek forgiveness and favour through Christ alone. Continue and deepen this work of self-abasement in every heart among us which thou, O holy Spirit, hast begun to teach; but grant that every manifestation Thou dost make to us of the evil within may be counterbalanced by a view of Jesus as "bearing our sins in His own body on the tree;"[h] since otherwise we should be overwhelmed with misery and fear.

[f] Isaiah liii. 2. [g] Isaiah lxiv. 6.
[h] 1 Peter ii. 24.

O suffer not Satan to blind our minds, and prevent us from perceiving the glory of Christ; permit not that the tinsel of "this present evil world"[i] should so dazzle our sight as to make us esteem it anything better than dross in comparison with "the excellency of the knowledge Christ Jesus our Lord."[j] Make us willing "to suffer the loss of all things," if needful for His sake, and permit nothing to stand in competition with Him in our hearts. Help us to "deny ourselves, to take up the cross daily, and follow him."[k] Make us to love His precepts, and to desire His promises, while earnestly longing and endeavouring to imitate His example.

Seeking to give Him the glory due unto His name, may we "honour the Father who hath sent Him, and the Holy Spirit who testifies of Him,"[l] and thus "acknowledging the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine

[i] Galatians i. 4.
[j] Philip. iii. 7, 8.
[k] Matthew xvi. 24.
[l] St. John v. 23.

Majesty worshipping the Unity;"[m] enable us even now to begin the song of praise which shall eventually arise to God, from all the company of the redeemed, in everlasting glory.

[n] The mighty power which thou, O God of all grace, didst work in Christ, in raising Him up from the dead, is still manifested in raising sinners from a death in sin to a life of righteousness. O be pleased to grant that this day may witness many such a spiritual resurrection, and that multitudes of precious souls throughout the world may be added to that favoured family who are "raised up together, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."[o] O Thou, who art rich in mercy, hear our prayer, and grant that not one of our number, or of those who are endeared to us by the ties of relationship or friendship may be suffered to remain in the darkness of spiritual

[m] Collect for Trinity Sunday.

[n] See Ephesians i. 19, 20. [o] Ephesians ii. 6.

death and alienation from thee. O draw us near to Thyself, and grant that the public ordinances of thy sanctuary and the private means of grace may be blessed this day to the spiritual birth, or support, or refreshment of our souls, according to the necessity of each, and to "the riches of thy glory"[p] in Christ our Lord.

Grant thy special benediction to the ministers of thy holy Word. Warm their hearts, give freedom of utterance, and make their testimony profitable; seal it on the hearts of many hearers in "the demonstration of the Spirit and of power;"[q] and in the great day of account may multitudes appear as "their joy and crown of rejoicing."[r] Increase the number of thy faithful witnesses, and may many who have hitherto preached "another Gospel,"[s] be henceforth "determined to know nothing among men but Jesus Christ and Him crucified."[t]

[p] Ephesians iii. 16.
[q] 1 Corinth. ii. 4.
[r] 1 Thess. ii. 19.
[s] Galatians i. 6.
[t] 1 Corinth. ii. 2.

Take this family under thy gracious protection throughout the day. Keep us from wilful and known sin, from carelessness of spirit, from wandering thoughts, or any other evil by which Satan may seek to gain an advantage over us;[u] and may thy favours bestowed upon us throughout its course become the theme of grateful praise not only when meeting before Thee again with our evening sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, but through an eternity of boundless happiness purchased for us by the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour, who is worthy, with the Father and Holy Spirit, to receive everlasting adoration and thankful praise.

Our Father, &c.

[u] 2 Corinth. ii. 11.

SUNDAY EVENING.

O MOST merciful God, who in infinite compassion hast not only given thy dear Son to die for sinners, but hast also "raised Him again for their justification,"[a] we desire to bless thee for this "unspeakable gift,"[b] and to come to thee in the way opened by Him;[c] making mention before thee of His name and righteousness only. We thank thee also for the gift of a day of sacred rest, on which especially to hear of this precious Saviour. How gracious is this provision which thou hast thus made for the instruction and benefit of our immortal souls. But, like all thy other gifts, we have been

[a] Romans iv. 25. [b] 2 Corinth. ix. 15.
[c] Psalm lxxi. 16.

guilty of undervaluing and misusing thy sabbaths, and thus have made "that which should have been for our good an occasion of falling."[d] Too often have we employed their hours in secular avocations, or consumed them in listless inactivity, becoming weary of them and of their appropriate employments.

O that by the special working of thy Holy Spirit in our hearts, making us to love Thee and consequently to delight in the time particularly consecrated to thy service, we may henceforth be enabled to "turn away our foot from the Sabbath, from doing our pleasure on thy holy day."[e] Make us to "call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; may we honour Him, not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our words;" thus bring us each under thy gracious benediction, "then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord."[f]

[d] Psalm lxix. 22. [e] Isaiah lviii. 13.
[f] Isaiah lviii. 14.

But how shall we delight ourselves in thee, O Lord, (though thou art the sole delight of holy angels and glorified saints,) unless thou wilt mercifully manifest thyself unto us, and make us to behold thy glory and thy grace? We are by nature not only blind, but "far off from thee,"[g] by wicked works, and not desiring the knowledge of thy ways.[h] But "with thee there is mercy, and with thee is plenteous redemption,"[i] and also all the means suited to make guilty sinners partakers of the blessings which are treasured up in Christ, and which are communicated to them by faith of thine own operation."[j]

Instructed as we are in the importance of possessing this faith, teach us diligently to inquire whether it is indeed implanted in our hearts. Suffer us never to rest satisfied without some indubitable evidences of its existence, and also of its

[g] Colossians i. 21.
[h] Job. xxi. 14.
[i] Psalm cxxx. 7.
[j] Colossians ii. 12.

growth, if we have reason to believe that thou hast given us any measure of it. Make us not only to receive the holy Bible as without doubt the book of thine own inspiration, but make us perceive and feel that it is addressed personally to us. Teach us its doctrines in detail, and bring our understandings to the full reception of every part; but especially apply it to our hearts and consciences, so that feeling its charges and fearing its threatenings, we may "flee for refuge to the hope set before us"[k] in it, and welcome the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and our Sovereign. Crediting His gracious assurance, "Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out,"[l] may we come in expectation of being received with compassion; and find our confidence daily increased in the promises of thy holy Word. Give us appropriating faith, and according to the riches of thy glory, and our necessity, grant us the sweet con-

[k] Hebrews vi. 18. [l] John vi. 37.

sciousness of acceptance in the Beloved ;[m] making us fully and truly to "receive the atonement,"[n] through faith in Him.

Thou dost "give"[o] unto thy people, O Lord, "not only to believe on thee, but also to suffer for thy sake ;" may dependance on thee be our instrumental security, and thy loving-kindness our real protection amidst all the dangers, temptations, sorrows, and pains, to which we may be exposed in any part of our lives.

May "the shield of faith quench all the fiery darts of the wicked,"[p] may confidence in thy mercy prevent repining under affliction or alarm in danger, and may the joyful expectation of a better world save us from being overwhelmed with any distresses which may assail us on our journey thither.

Enable us under all circumstances, whether of prosperity or of adversity, to

[m] Ephesians i. 6.
[n] Romans v. 11.
[o] Philip. i. 29.
[p] Ephesians vi. 16.

live and walk by faith,[q] thus glorifying thy name and and following the blessed company of thy saints, who, "through faith and patience now inherit the promises."[r]

Grant a blessing, O thou Giver of all good, to the means of grace with which we have ben favoured this day, and crown the mercies with which we have been distinguished throughout its course by communion with thee in private prayer. Draw out our hearts in secret to pray earnestly for those blessings which we have failed to ask for in public; to renew the self-dedication to thee which we have professed by attendance in thy house; to entreat the continuance of thy watchful care over us, and all for whom we desire to pray; and to thank thee for the innumerable and undeserved favours which thou delightest to multiply upon us.

Continue to bless us through life, and

[q] 2 Corinth. v. 7. [r] Hebrews vi. 12.

at death receive us to thine everlasting kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer.

MONDAY MORNING.

"REMEMBER us, O Lord, who are now assembled before thee, with the favour which thou bearest unto thy people, and visit us with thy salvation.[a] We have indeed sinned with our fathers,[b] we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. Notwithstanding thy constant mercies, we have not duly sought to understand or remember their multitude,[c] but have increased our provocations even when thy favours have been most manifested towards us. We have too often forgotten thy works,[d] and not waited for thy counsel; we have desired evil things, and neglected and forsaken thee the Giver of all good. We have undervalued

[a] Psalm. cvi. 4.
[b] Psalm cvi. 6.
[c] Ib. 7.
[d] Ib. 13.

the promises[e] of thy Word, and not implicitly believed them. In prosperity we have been ungrateful and [f] discontented in adversity. [g] Yet, O God of all grace, regard our necessities and hear our cry. [h] Remember thy covenant, and turn from the fierceness of thine anger. [i] Save us in Christ with an everlasting salvation, that we may give thanks unto thy holy name, and triumph in thy praise.

But how can such great and aggravated sinners venture to ask of thee, our offended Lord, those unspeakable benefits which alone can preserve us from the consequences of our sins. We are urged by our necessities, [j] encouraged by thy mercy, and even[k] commanded by thy word to ask of thee inconceivable blessings through the Lord Jesus, whom thou hast "exalted a Prince and a Saviour to

[e] See Psalm cvi. 24.
[f] Psalm cvi. 25.
[g] Ibid. 44.
[h] Ibid. 45.
[i] Ibid. 47.
[k] Ibid. 47, and Isa. xlv. 17.
[j] See Luke xi. 1—13.
[k] Luke xviii. 25.

give repentance and remission of sins"[l] to all who "come unto thee by Him."[m] We come, gracious Lord, attempting to ask, to seek, to knock. Thou who alone canst impart needful blessings, canst give earnest and persevering desire and supplication for them. "O Lord, teach us to pray."[n] Show us our necessities, give us to see all fulness treasured up in Christ, and lead us constantly to thy throne of grace, to seek, through Him, that mercy[o] in which thou dost delight. May we draw near to thee, not only in private and in the family circle, but let[p] every place be a place of prayer, consecrated to thee by frequent ejaculations of adoration, praise, and prayer. Suffer us not to engage in any pursuit to which such a habit would be unsuitable, and may we experience the benefit of thus "setting the Lord always before us," by finding thee constantly "at

[l] Acts v. 31. [m] St. John xiv. 6.
[n] Luke xi. 1. [o] Micah vii. 18.
[p] See 1 Timothy ii. 8.

our right hand, that we may not be moved." [q]

O Lord of the Sabbath, make us thankful for the privileges of the past day; may we now return to our usual employments refreshed by its rest, softened and sweetened in spirit by its exercises, and elevated in desires and hopes by its instructions. We bless thee for the institution of such a day. May we and our nation generally, value this thy gracious appointment of this season of rest as a special favour to our bodies and minds, as well as to our souls, for their instruction and profit in thy ways.

Regard our country with thy undeserved favour, O God of patience and long-suffering mercy; we are [r] a nation of evil doers, and nothing but thy forbearance preserves us in safety from the horrors of confusion, and war, and anarchy. Let thy protecting care still be extended over us,

[q] Psalm xvi. 8. [r] Isaiah i. 4.

and crown thy other innumerable mercies with a widely-spreading spirit of repentance and reformation. Blast the designs of evil men, check the spread of false doctrines, and the overflowings of iniquity; and grant that all ranks of men may acknowledge thee [s] our Lawgiver, our Judge, and our Sovereign. Bless those whom thou hast placed in authority over us, especially our Queen and her ministers. [t] Regard the whole of our royal family with thy favourable kindness, and "make them to inherit an everlasting throne of glory."

We comprehend in our supplications all for whom we ought to pray, especially the ministers of thy holy Word, and all of whom thou dost make use for the benefit of thy Church in more private ways. Continue thy former lovingkindness to us, and to all who are dear to us, increase the manifestations of it, and enable us to

[s] Isaiah xxxiii. 22. [t] 1 Timothy ii. 1—3.
[w] 1 Samuel ii. 8.

"show forth thy praise, not only in our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen."[x]

[x] General thankgiving.

MONDAY EVENING.

At the close of another day of our fleeting lives, we come to thee, O eternal and Almighty God, with the renewed and earnest request of pardon for the past, and mercy for the future. The light of one more day has shone upon us. Make us truly thankful, if the brighter beams of "the Sun of Righteousness"[a] have illuminated it to any among us; suffer not one of our number to "abide in darkness," but grant to us all "the light of life."[b] The shades of evening have now gathered around us. Grant us profit in the consideration of the night of death, which will ere long overtake us; and prepare us by thy grace for "the house

[a] Malac. iv. 2. [b] John viii. 12.

appointed for all living."[c] Since it is our sin which invests death and the grave with all their terrors;—mercifully impart to each of us that precious faith in the dying and risen Saviour of sinners, which annihilates their horrors, and changes them into the blessed, though solemn entrance into eternal happiness. By the renewal of our hearts, may we be always actually ready for our great change, and whenever the summons really comes, or we believe it to be approaching, may a consciousness of preparation be mercifully granted unto us, enabling us individually to say with holy confidence, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."[d]

"The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law;"[e] make us therefore earnestly to long for deliverance

[c] Job xxx. 23. [d] 2 Tim. i. 12.
[e] 1 Cor. xv. 56.

from both, so that we may be no longer "under the law, but under grace;"[f] no longer slaves of sin, but "servants of God, having our fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."[g] Make our lives useful, and our deaths tranquil. May both conduce to the glory of thy grace, manifesting thy undeserved favour towards us, and the effects of grace in us, operating in all holy obedience and submission to thy will. Make it evident that we are born of the Spirit, by causing us to live and "walk in the Spirit, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit."[h] May "love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance,"[i] be "in us and abound, that we may be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ;"[k] and may each of our hearts be "a habitation of God through the Spirit."[l]

[f] Rom. vi. 14. [g] Ib. vi. 22. [h] Gal. v. 25.
[i] Ib. v. 22, 23. [k] 2 Pet. i. 8. [l] Ephes. iii. 22.

Enlighten our minds, O blessed Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of thy truth, and suffer them neither to receive nor retain any false doctrine, but so "shine into our hearts,"[m] and shine upon thy Word, that we may perceive its meaning and rejoice in its light. Receiving thy entire truth in our understandings, may we love it in our hearts, yield obedience to it in our practice, and rejoice in it throughout our lives. May it be our support and guide through life, our comfort and hope in death.

In this world of sin, we must expect a portion of the sorrows which were introduced by our apostacy from thee, the only source of happiness. O grant that they may never come to us as tokens of wrath, but as fatherly chastisements to wean us from our sins, and to teach us to "set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth."[n] May they be

[m] 2 Cor. iv. 6. [n] Colos. iii. 2.

made a real blessing to us by thy wonder-working power, which delights to bring real good out of apparent evil. Prepare us for any afflictions which thou shalt see fit to send, by a devotional and quiet spirit; support us under them in the exercise of patience, faith, and love; and in thy good time deliver us out of them all, to the glory of thy name, and the relief of our necessities.

Teach us, gracious Lord, to pray for others; and thus may we learn much of the efficacy of prayer, and be encouraged to present constant supplications before the throne of grace. Bless thy universal Church generally, and every member of it in particular. Encourage the fearful, strengthen the weak, relieve the distressed, succour the tempted; and glorify thy name by bestowing blessings suited to the wants of every individual of their number. Make them to glorify thee on earth, by "walking worthy of the calling with which thou hast called

them,"[o] and take to thyself everlasting honour in their full and complete salvation. Add daily to the number of thy saints on earth, by calling "sinners from the error of their ways,"[p] and making them thy "children by faith in Christ Jesus."[q] Among this blessed people may we be found, with all who are dear to us, both now and ever, for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

[o] Ephes. iv. 1. [p] James v. 20.
[q] Gal. iii. 26.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, be pleased graciously to indite and accept the prayers and praises, which we,—a family encompassed with necessities, yet crowned with blessings,—desire to present before thee this morning, in the name and mediation of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thy constant temporal favours, O thou Giver of all good, are not only more than we can "reckon up in order unto thee,"[a] but are multiplied by every moment which passes over our heads; yet great and innumerable as they are, they constitute only a part of those benefits which thou delightest to bestow on the creatures of

[a] Psalm xl. 5.

thy power. Infinite and everlasting are the blessings of that salvation which thou hast treasured up in Christ, and which thou dost freely impart to every one who seeks them with the desire of the heart. O that none of us may be unacquainted with those riches of grace which are the sure pledges of "an eternal weight of glory."[b] But we are utterly unworthy, O Lord, to approach thy throne in our own names, either with thanksgivings or petitions, for we are all (even to the youngest among us) most grievous sinners by nature; and by practice also, so far as thy restraining hand has permitted. We have sinned, wilfully sinned, by casting thy law behind us, not seeking either to know or to fulfil its requirements;—and alas! if we have made the attempt to regulate our conduct according to its rule we have found that the weakness of our nature, through sin, has entirely incapacitated us for thy service, without the

[b] 2 Cor. iv. 17.

fluence of thy special grace. By yielding to the allurements of sin, we have made ourselves the slaves of the world, the flesh, and the devil; but, O thou blessed Redeemer, who didst come into this world "to save thy people from their sins,"[c] be pleased to break this yoke of bondage; and bless us with "the liberty which thou alone canst give."[d] Cast down the rule of Satan in our hearts, and be thou the only sovereign there; cast out the love of "this present evil world," and fill us with the filial fear and love of thy holy name; suffer us no longer to live to the lusts of the flesh, but enable us, "through the Spirit, to mortify the deeds of the body that we may live."[e]

Multiply thy distinguishing blessings upon us, we beseech thee, throughout the day, to the entrance of which thou hast mercifully brought us in safety, and in peace. May the recollection of thy un-

[c] Matt. i. 21. [d] John viii. 36.
[e] Rom. viii. 13.

intermitted inspection over all our way be ever present with us, to restrain us from evil, to engage our prayerful meditation, and to keep us from the fear of danger.[f] Suffer us not to fall into evil, keep us from unkind words, from foolish imaginations, and from useless cares. Occupy our minds with profitable subjects, and help us to fulfil all our relative duties with cheerfulness and zeal.

We beseech thee, O thou God of all grace, to bless all who in this opening day are remembering us in their prayers. Fulfil, and exceed our requests for them, and theirs for us; and teach us both what to pray for, and how to pray as we ought,[g]—for ourselves, for our dear relatives and friends, and for all who ought to be remembered in our prayers. Bless the neighbourhood in which we live. May the light of the Gospel (continue to) shine brightly in it, and may it prove to many immortal souls "the light of life."

[f] See Gen. xvi. 13. [g] See Rom. viii. 26.

Give thy blessing to our Sovereign, and our rulers generally; may they execute justice and maintain truth. Make the ministers of thy holy word increasingly like their Lord and Master, and give efficacy to thy truth delivered by them. May sinners be converted, and "believers built up in their most holy faith."[h] May our teachers be taught of thee, O holy "Spirit of wisdom and revelation," and when they preach the word, do thou be pleased to apply it to our hearts according to our individual necessities. We ask for great things, even for eternal blessings, because thou, O God, art "rich in mercy unto all that call upon thee,"[i] and thou hast said, "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it."[k] Pour out upon us then "the spirit of grace and of supplications,"[l] and we shall possess the pledge of all that is good for us in time

[h] Jude 20.
[i] Rom. x. 12.
[k] Ps. lxxxi. 10.
[l] Zech. xii. 10.

and to eternity; and to thine own na
shall be all the glory for ever and ev
Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

"OPEN our eyes, O Lord, that we may behold wondrous things out of thy law."[a] May "the word of thy mouth be dearer and better to us than thousands of gold and silver."[b] Teach us to "hide it in our hearts that we may not sin against thee;"[c] may it be "a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path;"[d] make "thy testimonies our delight and our counsellors;"[e] may we "take them as our heritage for ever,"[f] and find them "the rejoicing of our hearts." "Make us to go in the path of thy commandments,"[g] and "*lead* us in thy truth,"[h] as well as "teach

[a] Psalm cxix. 18. [b] Ib. 72. [c] Ib. 11.
[d] Ib. 105. [e] Ib. 24. [f] Ib. 111.
[g] Ib. 35. [h] Ib. xxv. 5.

us thy statutes,"[i] and make us to f
the ways of wisdom to be indeed th
of "pleasantness and peace."[k] May
law be so "written in our hearts by
transforming power of the Holy Spi
that every part of the Bible may be ill
trated in our character and experienc
Knowing all its charges of guilt to
fully verified in the depravity of
hearts, and the evils of our conduct, n
our confessions accord with those of
people of old, "We are all as an uncl
thing, and all our righteousnesses are
filthy rags; and we all do fade as a l
and our iniquities like the wind have c
ried us away."[m] May *our* prayers a
expectations be enlivened with the sa
faith which animated theirs. "Ta
away all iniquity, and receive us gra
ciously;"[n] "Hide thy face from our si
and blot out all our iniquities."[o] Tea
us to rejoice in the precious truth, t

[i] Ps. cxix. 64. [k] Prov. iii. 17. [l] Jer. xxxi.
[m] Isa. lxiv. 6. [n] Hos. xiv. 2. [o] Ps. li. 9.

thou "hast set forth the Lord Jesus Christ for a propitiation through faith in His blood,"[p] that in *Him* thou canst "be just, and yet the justifier"[q] of them that believe, and that He is called "The Lord our Righteousness."[r] "In Him may we be found, both now, in death, and at the day of judgment."[s] May we be cleansed in His atoning blood, clothed in His spotless righteousness, renewed by His sanctifying Spirit, kept by His Almighty power, and presented, accepted, and complete in Him. Help us to "walk worthy of the vocation with which we are called,"[t] and to "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things,"[u] so that men may "take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus."[w] If these inestimable blessings have not hitherto been the desire of any now presenting themselves before thee, be pleased, O God of mercy and

[p] Rom. iii. 25. [q] Ib. 26. [r] Jer. xxiii. 6.
[s] Phil. iii. 9. [t] Ephes. iv. 1. [u] Titus ii. 10.
[w] Acts iv. 13.

compassion, to awaken in such hearts a deep and profitable sense of the importance of these subjects; making them individually to begin to cry, "Behold, I am vile,"[x] "What shall I do to be saved?"[y] Where such confessions and inquiries have been excited, in mercy receive and answer them "according to thy riches in glory" through Christ Jesus; to the glory of thy name, the relief of our necessities, and the joy of our hearts.

We bless thee for thy protecting care and bounteous providence extended over us during every part of our lives, and especially the day now passing away. We entreat thy merciful forgiveness for whatever of sin or vanity has marked its course. Enable us profitably this night to retrace the various actings of ou minds during the day, and finding ho deeply they are stained with guilt, mak us to apply with heartfelt earnestness

[x] Job xl. 4. [y] Acts xvi. 30.

"the fountain opened for sins and for uncleanness."[z] Wash us in it, and then we, though now defiled with sin, shall appear before thee, "whiter than snow."[a] Deign to continue thy merciful preservation over us during our sleeping hours. "Keep"[b] us, and all who are dear to us, "as the apple of the eye, hide us under the shadow of thy wings." Suffer not "any evil to befal us, nor any plague to come nigh our dwellings."[c] Bless us, O God of mercy, bless our friends, our relatives, our neighbourhood, our country, and do for us all "exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think,"[d] for the merits' sake alone of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord.

[z] Zech. xiii. 1. [a] Ps. li. 7. [b] Ib. xvii. 8.
[c] Ib. xci. 10. [d] Ephes. iii. 20.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O THOU "Father of lights;"[a] the author and giver of every good and perfect gift, in thee is the fountain and fulness of benediction and grace. Thou art infinitely "exalted above all blessing and praise;"[b] and all the streams of mercy of which we have been made partakers throughout our lives, have their source in thy goodness and compassion.

Thy glorious attributes of majesty and justice, of holiness and unchangeableness, would necessarily prevent us, who are deeply guilty sinners, from attempting, or even desiring, to draw near to thee, as under these considerations only thou couldest be to us nothing but "a con-

[a] James i. 17. [b] Neh. ix. 5.

suming fire."[c] But since thou hast graciously revealed thyself "in the face of Jesus Christ,"[d] as "the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin;"[e] we are shown that thy glorious name exactly accords with our deep necessities; and are encouraged, and even emboldened to ask of thee to bestow on each of us in particular, those inconceivable blessings which are the subjects of free promise in thy holy word. "A new heart and a right spirit,"[f] real repentance and abhorrence of sin, genuine faith, ardent love and lively hope, are among the primary things we need, to effect or to prove our "deliverance from the power of darkness and our translation into the kingdom of thy dear Son."[g]

Leave us not, gracious God, to that destruction to which we have wilfully ex-

[c] Heb. xii. 29.
[d] 2 Cor. iv. 6.
[e] Exod. xxxiv. 6, 7.
[f] Ezek. xxxvi. 26.
[g] Colos. i. 13.

posed ourselves, by assenting to the apostacy of our first parents, by departure in heart from thee, and by our constant habit while unrenewed by thee of "calling evil good, and good evil."[h] We can no more save ourselves, than we could have created ourselves; we have no more power to work in ourselves the repentance, and faith, and obedience which the Gospel requires, than we have to keep the law, "which is holy, just, and good;"[i] but every precept of which we continually transgress, either in thought, word, or deed. Those among us who are taught of thee to know anything truly of the spirituality of the law, and the depravity of the heart, must acknowledge before thee with shame and grief, that "in us, that is, in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing,"[k] constantly finding, that "when we would do good, evil is present with us."[l] To such among us, most gracious

[h] Isa. v. 20. [i] Rom. vii. 12. [k] Ib. 18.
[l] Ib. 21.

Lord, extend in mercy the consolations of thy word; make us to see the suitableness of the promises to our case; enable us to perceive their preciousness, and above all, give us the hand of appropriating faith by which to lay firm hold of them, and of eternal life, through Christ in them.

Help us ever to wait on thee, O Lord, for constant instruction, for daily support, for power to renounce everything inconsistent with our holy profession, and for wills rendered submissive to thee in all things. Humble us deeply, and make us willing to be brought increasingly low in our own opinion; may constant thankfulness spring out of mean thoughts of our own deserts, and may we be happy to account "others better than ourselves."[m] May Christ be daily more exalted in our hearts. May He be revealed more clearly to our understandings, and made increasingly precious to our souls.

[m] Phil. ii. 3.

Let us see such attractions in Him that we may "go forth out of the camp after Him, willingly bearing His reproach;"[n] and "esteeming it greater riches than all the treasures"[o] of the world. As opportunities may be offered, make us anxious to tell others of His glory, and invite them to come and seek *thee*, who alone art able to make them happy here, and to deliver them from the everlasting consequences of sin. Suffer not, merciful Lord, that any whom thou hast placed under our influence, should, through any neglect of ours, remain ignorant of "the things which belong unto their peace."[p] Help us to devise and execute suitable plans, by which the ignorant may be instructed, the poor relieved, and the afflicted succoured. Make us thankful for the means given us of endeavouring to effect any of these objects. Suffer us not to be unfaithful stewards of thy temporal boun-

[n] Heb. xiii. 13. [o] Ib. xi. 26.
[p] St. Luke xix. 42.

ties, and especially may thy holy name never be dishonoured through our unwillingness to do all in our power for the spiritual good of our fellow-creatures, and fellow-sinners.

Look on us, O Father of mercies, as a family, in compassion and loving-kindness. So "unite our hearts to fear thy name,"[q] that not an individual of our number may be destitute of this additional tie to mutual affection; and however we may be separated in thy good Providence from each other, may love join us in heart; and may thy throne of grace be our daily place of meeting, while asking for mutual benefits, and uniting in mutual thanksgivings.

Bless us throughout the day; keep us from sin, and prepare our hearts for an evening song of grateful praise, acceptable to thee, through Christ our Lord.

[q] Psalm lxxxvi. 11.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Protected through another day by thy watchful care, and richly supplied by thy bounteous Providence, enable us, O Lord, to offer up unfeigned and united thanks to thee, the Father of all our mercies, and the God of all consolation. We bless thee for the occupations of the day, and for the rest of the night; without the one we should be restless and unhappy, and without the other our strength would speedily be exhausted. We consider it one among thy great mercies to the wandering and wicked sons of men that thou hast made labour necessary, and caused it in so many ways to promote our present happiness and peace. Bless

with habits of industry and diligence, and teach us so to arrange our pursuits that we may be neither unemployed nor engaged in laborious trifling, and may our occupations be ennobled and sanctified by constant reference to thee in them all. [a] Teach us to perform even our smallest duties rather unto thee than to men, or to ourselves. Make us always seek to know the duty of the present hour, so that our religious exercises, our family employments, our relative and our personal engagements may not interfere with each other, yet happily be blended as a whole to the glory of thy name, the benefit of our own souls, the comfort of the domestic circle, and the good, both spiritual and temporal, of all with whom we are in any way connected.

We are now, through thy mercy, about to retire to our beds; nothing but thy blessing can make them places of repose to us; at thy command, they might be-

[a] See Col. iii. 23.

come our prisons of weariness and pain. We have deserved this, and infinitely more; yet deign to grant us refreshing rest, undisturbed by alarms from without, or diseases from within. Before yielding ourselves up to the influence of sleep, help us to retrace the events of the day in the little world of our own hearts. May all propose the question with profit, even if not with comfort, what has been done this day, which we could wish to do again in the near view of eternal judgment? Teach us to watch our motives as well as our actions, and cleanse these, as well as all other "thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name."[b]

Shouldest thou be mercifully pleased to continue our lives for future days, grant us the unfeigned desire of devoting them unreservedly to thy service, making us more anxious that they should be conse-

[b] Collect in Communion Service.

crated to thee than that they should be passed in uninterrupted outward prosperity.

Make us willing to acknowledge ourselves thy servants in whatever company we may be placed, but deliver us from the deceitfulness of our hearts, and suffer us never to profess to others more of personal religion than we are conscious thou hast wrought in us. Yet on the other hand, preserve any of us who may be in danger of the mistake from the foolish thought that any one of thy commands may be slighted with safety, in the absence of that [c] professed subjection unto thee which is our reasonable service, and which cannot be omitted without great dishonour unto thee, and the destruction of the soul which continues wilfully without it.

Extend the knowledge of thy great name and thy saving mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord to the multitudes who

[c] 2 Cor. ix. 13.

even in this land of Bibles are utterly ignorant of the way of salvation. May thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."[d] May the many and extensive regions which now lie in darkness[e] and the shadow of death, be illuminated by the light of thy truth and the glory of thy great salvation. May many who have not yet so much as heard of thy holy name be found eventually among the innumerable multitude who shall cast their blood-bought crowns for ever before the throne of God and of the Lamb, saying, [f]Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power, for thou hast washed us from our sins in thine own blood, and made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign for ever and ever.

May we who are now assembled in thy presence, with all our dear family and friends, and all who ought to have an in-

[d] Ps. lxvii. 2. [e] Matt. iv. 16.
[f] Rev. iv. 11, and i. 5, 6, v. 10,

terest in our prayers, (including any who may have injured or hated us,) be privileged through thy grace to join in that melodious and everlasting song, through the same Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O Lord God of power and majesty, "who hast set thy glory above the heavens,"[a] and hast "so done thy marvellous works that they ought to be had in remembrance,"[b] mercifully be pleased to grant us the disposition to "consider the operations of thy hands,"[c] and intelligence to discern the wonders which every where surround us, so far at least as to be filled with grateful adoration and admiring love. "All thy works praise thee, O Lord;"[d] everything on earth which is not utterly ruined by the sin of man, manifests most strikingly the goodness and

[a] Ps. viii. 1.
[b] Ps. cxi. 4, old version.
[c] Isa. v. 12.
[d] Ps. cxlv. 10.

skill of thine Almighty hand. The world of providence, no less than that of creation, exhibits thy glorious attributes of wisdom and beneficence. Thou "openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing,"[e] and thou dost so mercifully curb and overrule the wickedness of man, as to leave us innumerable causes for thankfulness in a world which, without that salutary restraint, would become utterly uninhabitable. We would humbly praise thee, most gracious Lord, for all these things, blessing thy name for the constant supply of our wants, the delight which thy works afford our senses and our minds, and the degree of health of body and the sanity of mind which make us capable of deriving pleasure from any of these sources.

But though these and innumerable other benefits demand our grateful praise to thee, the Father of all our mercies, and make our highest acknowledgments to be

[e] Ps. cxlv. 16.

in comparison with them no more than the lispings of a babe, there are yet inexpressibly higher and greater blessings of which thou art the Author and Giver, and of which we can learn only in the Book of thine own revelation.

The wonders of redemption infinitely exceed those of creation and of providence, as the highest object of both these is to make way for the manifestation of "the exceeding great love of Christ our Saviour,"[f] and of the glory of the undivided and ever-blessed Trinity in his wonderful work. Tune our hearts, O God of all grace, to this heavenly theme, and in mercy prepare us to sing it for ever in thy immediate presence. To this end, be pleased to teach us, by humbling yet profitable experience, the misery, pollution, and degradation of sin, by which we fell from thee, who didst create man in happiness, innocence, and honour. Show us how it suited the glory of thy di-

[f] Communion Service.

vine attributes to raise from this mass of ruin a church "chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blame before thee in love."[g] Among this blessed people may we be found, O Lord, through thy sovereign grace and mercy. Reveal to us the infinite condescension of the eternal Son of God in becoming incarnate to effect the glorious work of redemption; and may that mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, was found in fashion as a man, and humbled Himself unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore thou, O God, hast highly exalted Him, and given Him a name that is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

May we be among those who "rejoice

[g] Eph. i. 4. [h] Phil. ii. 5—11.

in his highness,"[i] knowing that our deliverance depends on His ability[j] to save those whom the Father gave unto Him, and who come to Him as guilty and miserable sinners for pardon and peace.

When burdened with the weight of our transgressions, or the consciousness that our penitence is utterly disproportionate with our sins, help us to rejoice that thou hast "exalted the Lord Jesus to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins."[k] If desponding on account of the want or weakness of our trust in thee, enable us to "look unto Jesus as the author and finisher of faith,"[l] and make us to delight in constant dependence upon Him. He is indeed exactly suited to our wants. As *guilty* sinners, we need His glorious work as our Priest, both for atonement and for intercession; as *ignorant* sinners, we require Him as our Prophet, and as

[i] Isa. xiii. 3. [j] Heb. vii. 25, and John vi. 37.
[k] Acts v. 31. [l] Heb. xii. 2.

weak and *wayward* sinners we need Him as our King, to subdue our foes, and to rule in our hearts. May Christ be "all in all"[m] to us, and to our unspeakable and everlasting benefit may we find Him "made of thee unto us, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."[n]

Be graciously present with us, O Lord, throughout the day, to the beginning of which thy care has brought us in safety. May we enter on its duties with hearts attuned to prayer, warmed with praise, and prepared by thy grace for any event or circumstance which may occur before its close.

Bless all our relatives and friends, and all the members of thy holy Church who are in any manner of affliction or distress. Comfort and relieve them, "O God of all consolation,"[o] and enable them in-

[m] Col. iii. 11. [n] 1 Cor. i. 30.
[o] Rom. xv. 5.

dividually to say, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted."[p]

Prepare us for all thy will concerning us, teach us to watch for thy direction in all things, and may we realize it to the joy of our hearts! Increase our confidence in thee, and love to thy holy name, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, for the sake alone of Jesus Christ our Lord.

[p] Ps. cxix. 71.

THURSDAY EVENING.

"O HOW great is thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee,"[a] O God of all grace, "which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men." We read much in thy holy Word of the blessed nature and effects of "the fear of the Lord," and we come before thee, O God, to entreat that this "beginning of wisdom"[b] may be in each of us—"a fountain of life to depart from the snares of death,"[c]—an instrumental preservation from evil,[d]—a purifying and abiding principle of action,[e] and a "treasure of infinite and enduring value."[f] Since thou hast caused

[a] Ps. xxxi. 19. [b] Ps. cxi. 10, and Prov. ix. 10,
[c] Prov. xiv. 27. [d] Prov. i. 33.
[e] Ps. xix. 9. [f] Isa. xxxiii. 6.

it to be recorded that—"the fear of the Lord tendeth to life, that he who hath it shall abide satisfied, and not be visited with evil;"[g] its possession must be of far more importance than those earthly things for which men of the world are willing to labour with unremitting toil. O teach us, therefore, to "seek it as silver, to search for it as for hid treasures,"[h] to apply[i] our hearts and minds to the attainment of it, believing thy gracious assurance, that thus we shall understand[j] the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

We bless thee for any indications of this holy principle, either in ourselves or in any who are dear to us; and we beseech thee mercifully to increase its influence where already implanted, and to extend it to those hitherto destitute of its benefits. May we learn by it to hate

[g] Prov. xix. 23. [h] Prov. ii. 4.
[i] Ib. 2. [j] Ib. 5.

evil,[k] to become the [l] companions of those who keep thy precepts, and teach us to thank thee for the faithful promise that thou wilt "fulfil the desire of them who fear thee; that thou also wilt hear their cry, and wilt save them;"[m] cause our desires to be ardent for those things by which the glory of thy great name may be promoted, thy people blessed, and ourselves with multitudes around us included in their number.

We ask not for the awful dread of slaves who fear the consequences, but not the act of disobedience, but for the spirit of loving children who hate the sin which dishonours their father, and flee from it as from the face of a serpent. "Keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us;"[n] "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;"[o] and cause us to abhor a wicked thought as well as a sinful word

[k] Prov. viii. 13. [l] Ps. cxix. 63.
[m] Ps. cxlv. 19. [n] 1 Chron. iv. 10.
[o] St. Matt. vi. 13.

or action. Make us thy people,[p] and be thou our God; give us one heart and one way, that we may fear thee for ever for our good, and that of all around us. Make thou an everlasting covenant with us not to turn away from us to do us good; but put thy fear in our hearts, that we may not depart from thee. Thus do thou be pleased to rejoice over us to do us good assuredly with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul." "Be it unto us, O Lord, according to thy word,"[q] and fulfil to us those "exceeding great and precious promises"[r] which can alone guide our petitions, or assure us of their success.

We have asked these unspeakable blessings for ourselves, and for those we know and love, but we have yet to entreat for a more extensive display of them. As a nation, O Lord, though professing in some sense to be guided by thy will

[p] Jer. xxxii. 38—41. [q] St. Luke i. 38.
[r] 2 Pet. i. 4.

and influenced by thy fear, we have wickedly departed from thy ways, and oppression, and profaneness, and wide-spreading immorality, show too plainly that many who possess the means of knowing thee "have no fear of God before their eyes;"[s] while the brutish ignorance of multitudes who ought to have been instructed in the knowledge of thy ways is the fearful consequence, and may become the awful punishment of a nation who practically almost "forget God."[t] Yet, O Lord of long-suffering mercy,[u] who wouldest have spared the cities of the plain had ten righteous been found among them, and even in their destruction didst preserve one who called upon thy name, be pleased to avert the wide-spreading calamities which our national sins deserve. Thou hast given us *time* for repentance, and we have misused it; hast sent *calls* to repentance, but we

[s] Rom. iii. 18. [t] Ps. ix. 17.
[u] See Gen. xviii. 17—33, and xix. 29.

have neglected them; mercifully *now* impart the *spirit* of repentance, and cause us to "turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands;"[u] and thus it may be to thy glory "to turn from thy fierce anger that we perish not." But if indeed we must bear the effects of our transgressions, be pleased, O God of mercy, to bless the general chastisement to the good of multitudes immortal souls; that they may "hear the rod, and who hath appointed it,"[v] "turn unto thee with fasting, and with weeping and with mourning;"[x] and find thee "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness."

Trusting to thy mighty power, and thy merciful care, may we now "lie down in peace and sleep, knowing that thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety."[y] Help us to "sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning, and find thee our defence

[v] Jonah iii. 8, 9. [w] Micah vi. 9.
[x] Joel ii. 12, 13. [y] Ps. iv. 8.

and refuge in every future time of trouble."[z]

We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

[z] Ps. lix. 16.

FRIDAY MORNING.

THANKS be unto thee, O God of all our mercies for the rest of another night, and the dawn of another morning. Through the continuance of thy undeserved favours, may the day now begun prove to each of us a day of peace and heavenly benediction. Our necessities revive with the renewal of our lives in waking from sleep, blessed be thou, O Lord, for permission to ask thee for the supply of them. We ask for *safety*, for our dangers are many, our foes mighty, and our strength perfect weakness. Keep us, therefore, "outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls,"[a] from everything

[a] Collect for second Sunday in Lent.

that may hurt either the one or the other. We ask also for *wisdom* to direct our way,—for we are foolish as well as weak, and need instruction every moment. Reveal to our understandings the best object of pursuit, enable our wills to choose it, and make us perseveringly to pursue the best means for its attainment. Teach us to "refuse the evil, to choose the good,"[b] and to follow it with full "purpose of heart."[c] We ask for reconciliation and "peace"[d] with thee "through the blood of the cross," for consciences purged from sin—made tender but not scrupulous,—rendered true witnesses for thee, and prompt to testify against any dishonour done to thy holy name. And when, through the sinfulness and weakness of our hearts, or the power and deceitfulness of temptation, we are betrayed into evil, help us to apply, without delay, to the precious blood which was shed for sin, and to the prevailing "intercession which Jesus the

[b] Isa. vii. 16. [c] Acts xi. 23. [d] Colos. i. 20.

risen Saviour ever lives to present for those who come unto God by Him."[e] By this blessed, this only method of escaping from our iniquities, may we be set free, not only from the consequences, but from the power of sin; not only from its guilt in our consciences, but from its influence in our hearts, and be rendered "a people formed for thyself, who shall show forth thy praise."[f]

May this, and every future day of our lives, prove that we are "not our own,"[g] but bought with a price, and consequently bound and enabled to glorify thee in our bodies and our spirits as thine own property.

Enable us to thank thee for thy promises of continual support, and of ultimate deliverance to all among us, to whom thou hast given the privileges and the character of thy children. We bless thee for the heavenly "inheritance re-

[e] Heb. vii. 25. [f] Isa. xliii. 21.
[g] 1 Cor. vi. 20.

served"[h] for them, the comforts of thy Spirit often vouchsafed to them, and the daily supplies of needful things which thou hast engaged to bestow upon them. Make us thankful that thou hast included any of ourselves, or those most dear to us among the people "whom thou thus delightest to honour"[i] and to bless. Make us to "rejoice in thy salvation;"[k] and "speak of the glorious honour of thy Majesty;"[l] for "thou art great, and greatly to be praised, thy greatness is unsearchable."[m] "Thou art gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."[n] All this thou hast constantly proved thyself to each of us, for "thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities,"[o] else our abode must already have been with many, who, though not greater transgressors than ourselves, are

[h] 1 Pet. i. 4. [i] Esther vi. 6. [k] Ps. xxi. 1.
[l] Ib. clxv. 5. [m] Ib. 3. [n] Ib. 8.
[o] Ib. ciii. 10.

now reaping the bitter fruits of departure from thee, the Fountain of life; the only source of happiness and peace. (O that none of us may be suffered to walk in the way which leads to so awful an end, but rather draw us back by the strongest restraints, than permit any of us to take another step in that fearful road. "The way of transgressors, even now, is hard,"[p] how much worse their end!) Set our feet, O Lord, in the way of life, and keep them stedfast in it however rough, however narrow, however thorny it may be needful in thy infinite wisdom that it should prove to us but meeting in it with thee as our reconciled God, and aiming to follow the steps of our crucified Lord, may we find it the path of present safety, and the road to future everlasting joy.

May these great and inconceivable blessings be the happy portion, not of ourselves only, but of an "innumerable

[p] Prov. xiii. 15.

multitude out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"[q] and everlasting glory shall be unto thee, O God of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[q] Rev. v. 9; and vii. 9.

FRIDAY EVENING.

"Blessed are the people, O Lord, who know the joyful sound of thy salvation, and who walk in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day, and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength, their defence, and their king."[a] All they need of present grace or future glory is promised to them by thy immutable engagements; they walk in a way "walled with salvation,"[b] and paved with promises. Make us therefore, gracious Lord, to feel the supreme importance of knowing, on undeniable evidence, that we are individu-

[a] Psalm lxxxix. 15—18. [b] Isa. lx. 18.

ally among the people who are thus distinguished by thy favour. While thousands are willingly ignorant on this subject, and many presume, without reason, that all is right within, suffer not that any of us, now presenting ourselves before thee, should be permitted to remain in delusion, or even in uncertainty, with respect to the real state of our souls before thee. "Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting."[c] "Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts,"[d] and all that is within us, though much concealed from our fellow-creatures, and often from ourselves, is open to thine all-seeing eye. Knowing that the time will surely come when every secret thing shall be made manifest, grant us grace now to "come to the light,"[e] entreating thee, O holy

[d] Psalm cxxxix. 23, 24. [e] Burial Service.
[c] John iii. 21.

and blessed Spirit of God, to "shine into our hearts"[f] with thy illuminating power, making us each to know both our present state and our future prospects.

Those whom thou hast begun to teach must know that much evil lies hidden in the depths of the heart; O give sincerity enough to excite the desire of more complete investigation, sensible that concealment of internal enemies will by no means diminish their influence. Enable such among us to search into our hearts more diligently, permit us not to rest satisfied with superficial ideas, or even initiatory views, but make us to desire the consciousness of a real, vital, growing religion, wrought in our hearts by thine own Almighty power, and made apparent in the state of our affections, and the whole of our demeanour. Suffer not any of us, O thou heart-searching God, to be satisfied with "a name to live,"[g] without evidence that we are "dead indeed unto

[f] 2 Cor. iv. 6. [g] Rev. iii. 1.

sin, but alive unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord."[h] "Examine us,"[i] O God, and cause us deeply to "examine ourselves;"[k] and grant that whatever discoveries may be made to us of hypocrisy, of enmity against thee, of selfishness, of delight in evil things, or any other fruits of "the root of bitterness"[l] within,—may lead us, not to despair of salvation, nor to relax in the pursuit of it; but be mercifully overruled to bring us to the Saviour of sinners for the application of His cleansing blood, and the imputation of His spotless righteousness. If we find that we can truly say with one of thy saints of old, that we "desire no unnecessary intercourse with vain or wicked persons,"[m] that we "love the habitation of thine house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth;"[n] if we be conscious of "trusting in the Lord, and

[h] Rom. vi. 11.
[i] Psalm xxvi. 2.
[k] 2 Cor. xiii. 5.
[l] Heb. xii. 15.
[m] See Psalm xxvi. 4, 5.
[n] Ib. 8.

walking before Him in integrity;"[o] enable and embolden us to plead—"Gather not our souls with sinners, nor our life with bloody men;"[p] but "redeem us, and be merciful unto us."[q]

If through thy special mercy any of our number are enabled fully to realize the work of thy grace on their hearts, and are favoured with "the full assurance of hope,"[r] be pleased to grant unto them deeper and still deeper views of that infinite love which has distinguished them, not only from the world at large, but in this respect at least from many of thine own beloved people. May their thankfulness bear some proportion to such mercies, and their obedience daily grow with their gratitude. Continue and increase these thy favours unto them both through life and in death.

If any among us are unconcerned to know whether they are among the living

[o] See Psalm xxvi. 1. [p] Ib. 9. [q] Ib. 11.
[r] Heb. vi. 11.

or the dead, condescend, O Spirit of life, to "breathe upon such that they may live,"[s] and at once begin the serious inquiry how they may escape the ruin which threatens them on account of sin; make them to "flee from the wrath to come,"[t] and grant that they may find refuge in the arms of the compassionate Saviour. Let their course be smoothed by the labours of thy faithful ministers,[u] and not impeded by stumbling-blocks cast in their way by professed travellers in the same road.

We commend ourselves, and all our dear relatives and friends, to thy watchful care, O ever present and ever merciful God, entreating that when the night of death shall arrive to any of us, we may, through thy wonder-working power, be as little afraid of its approach as we are of the present prospect of lying down to rest. We are encouraged to ask this

[s] See Ezek. xxxvii. 9. [t] St. Luke iii. 7.
[u] See Isa. lxii. 10.

great, this crowning blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the conqueror of death, who "gives the victory over this last enemy"[x] to all, for whose sakes He gave His precious life "a ransom;"[y] and to Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

[x] 1 Cor. xv. 26, 57. [y] Matt. xx. 28.

SATURDAY MORNING.

"GIVE ear, O shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest thy people like a flock, thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth."[a] Cause *us* to be "the people of thy pasture, and the sheep of thy hand;"[b]—to enter thy fold "through Christ the door,"[c] and to know and obey Him as our only Shepherd. Give us the tractable disposition of His sheep, who "know His voice and follow Him;"[d] let us possess their useful character, and their inoffensive habits. May love daily more and more unite our hearts to each member of the flock, but especially to

[a] Psalm lxxx. 1.
[b] Ib. xcv. 7.
[c] St. John x. 7.
[d] Ib. 4.

"the good Shepherd who hath given His life for the sheep."[e] May we ever experience His watchful care, His tender compassion, and His bountiful provision. May we be "led by Him beside the still waters, and made to lie down in green pastures;"[f] and when we shall be called to "walk through the valley of the shadow of death,"[g] may we fear no evil, but feel Him to be with us, His rod and His staff comforting us. And after finding "goodness and mercy following us all the days of our life, may we dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."[h]

In mercy, gracious Lord, gather into thy flock many who have hitherto refused to come, and deliver them from the grasp of that "roaring lion who walketh about seeking whom he may devour,"[i] and who will certainly seize every one not found within the Saviour's fold. Grant that His gracious inviting voice

[e] St. John x. 11. [f] Ps. xxiii. 2. [g] Ib. 4.
[h] Ib. 6. [i] I Pet. v. 8.

may be heard and obeyed by multitudes in every part of the world; so that "all nations may call Him blessed,"[k] especially the perverse and scattered descendants of thine ancient people. "Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word;[l] and so fetch them home, blessed Lord, to thy flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be made 'one fold under one Shepherd,'[m] Jesus Christ our Lord."

Through thy wonder-working grace, Almighty Lord, may the morrow prove "the day of thy power"[n] to many of thine enemies. From untamed and injurious enemies may they be changed into lambs of the Redeemer's fold, through the transforming influence of God the Holy Spirit. And may the pastures of thy Word prove "fat and plenteous"[o]

[k] Psalm lxxii. 17.
[l] Collect for Good Friday.
[m] St. John. x. 16.
[n] Psalm cx. 3.
[o] See Isa. xxx. 23.

to hungry sheep, who seek the supply of their wants in the ways of thine own appointment. Let the frequent thought that to-morrow will be the Lord's day, induce us to arrange our transactions, even to the most minute of our concerns, with a view to the sanctification of the day which thou hast set apart for thyself, and may our minds be often engaged in asking that a blessing may rest this day on the private labours of thy ministering servants, preparatory to their public services in the sanctuary. May these under shepherds be taught of thee to feed their flocks with a portion of the love and wisdom, and assiduity of their great "Lord and Master;"[p] may their work be blessed by thee, and be pleased to comfort their own hearts while enabling them to seek thy glory in the good of the immortal souls committed to their charge; and when "the chief Shepherd

[p] St. John xiii. 14.

shall appear, may they, and we with them, receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."[q]

O God of all grace, be pleased to bless all whom we ought to remember in our prayers before thee, especially those of our dear friends who are in adversity. Be very gracious unto them according to their necessities, accomplish thy merciful purposes to them, and as soon as it may be for their safety and their profit, remove their affliction, and make their hearts rejoice in thy mercy.

May a thankful sense of thy innumerable and undeserved favours towards ourselves, excite the humble expectation of their continuance, even to the end of our lives, not for our worthiness, but for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; "in whom thou canst be well pleased,"[r] even with us sinners. To Him, with the Father and Holy Spirit, teach us to

[q] 1 Pet. v. 4. [r] St. Matt. iii. 17.

ascribe unceasing adoration from this time forth even for ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O God of patience and long suffering mercy, who "hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities,"[a] we meet around "thy throne of grace,"[b] to entreat that not our deserts, but thy mercies; not our improvement of opportunities, but thy superabounding love, may be the standard of thy dispensations towards us. If "weighed in thy balances we must be found wanting,"[c] and nothing can avert this fearful issue but that merciful transfer of responsibility, by which thou, "looking on the face of thine anointed,"[d] and on us in Him, wilt find us pure in thy sight and

[a] Psalm ciii. 10.
[b] Heb. iv. 16.
[c] Dan. v. 27.
[d] Psalm lxxxiv. 9.

"righteous as He is righteous."[e] Nothing less than this will meet our case, for even if we have reason to hope that thou hast begun the work of thy grace on any of our hearts, we are continually falling into evil; and too often, instead of "growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,"[f]—we appear, at least to ourselves, to be more than ever prone to some particular transgressions, or omissions of duty, while unable to trace the triumphs of thy grace in other respects. Suffer not these things, O Lord, to discourage our hearts from continued warfare against these enemies of our peace, knowing that constant opposition to them alone can prove us to be truly on thy side. Give us more skill, more strength, and more determined opposition to everything contrary to thy will, and suffer not our foes to gain any advantage over us to the dishonour of thy

[e] 1 John iii. 7. [f] 2 Pet. iii. 18.

name, the injury of our own souls, or the discouragement of those who are entering on the conflict. Enable us to maintain an unceasing warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil; and, finally, O thou "Captain of our salvation,"[g] give us the complete and everlasting victory over them all, through thy power working both for us and in us; and leading us to victory and eternal life.

We bless thee, gracious Lord, for the many favours we have enjoyed during the week, to the close of which we have almost arrived; and also for those bestowed on our relatives, friends, and connexions during the same interval. We thank thee for the divisions of time which thou hast instituted, and entreat that the recurrence of the *end* of days, and weeks, and years, may be rendered useful to our souls, reminding us of the speedily approaching "end of all time,"[h] of the duty

[g] Heb. ii. 10. [h] 1 Pet. iv. 7.

of self-examination, to ascertain the use we have made of this important talent, and the progress we have made in "the things belonging to our peace."[i] Suffer not that week after week should find us without advance in this important particular, as we must inevitably be going back, if not increasing in the knowledge and fear of God.

Should the retrospect of this week prove to any of us of this discouraging nature, be pleased, O Lord God, "who despisest not the sighing of a contrite heart, nor the desire of such as be sorrowful,"[k] to grant that humility and contrition at least may be the result of such a review. Grant that thy mercy may be magnified by favours continued to such "unprofitable servants;"[l] and may we ever hereafter, through the power of the Holy Ghost, be enabled to glorify thy name by obedience to thy will in all things, making it evident that thou

[i] *Luke xix. 42.* [k] Litany. [l] Luke xvii. 10.

art *He* whose "we are, and whom we serve."[m]

Be pleased, O Lord, to bless our neighbourhood in particular, and our country in general, with more diffused preaching of thy Word "in simplicity and godly sincerity."[n] May all orders of men from our beloved Sovereign and her family, through all the ranks of the upper and middle classes, to the very meanest of her subjects, esteem it their happiness and their honour to be thy servants, and to seek to promote thy glory, and the extension of thy kingdom.

And when thou, O blessed Redeemer, "shalt come to be glorified in thy saints, and admired in all them that believe,"[o] may *we all* be privileged by a blessed place in thy kingdom; may we become "pillars in the house of our God, and go no more out"[p] for ever. In thy own blessed name alone we present these our

[m] Acts xxvii. 23.
[n] 2 Cor. i. 12.
[o] 2 Thes. i. 10.
[p] Rev. iii. 12.

imperfect and defiled prayers, beseeching thee to mix them with "the incense of thine own all-prevailing intercession,[q] and to present them before thy Father's face purified from their sinfulness, and made acceptable through thy merits. Be pleased to forgive all that we "ask amiss,"[r] to impart the blessings which we have failed to request; and to exceed all our desires and conceptions of good, for thy mercy's sake. Amen.

[q] See Rev. viii. 3, 4. [r] James iv. 3.

SUNDAY MORNING.

AGAIN, most merciful God, thou hast favoured us, thy rebellious and unworthy creatures, with the opening of another day of rest, consecrated to thy worship, and distinguished by thy special regard. It is thine own day,—as such may we sanctify, reverence, and love it; and, through "the exceeding riches of thy grace," find it a day of happiness and profit, of instruction and communion with thee.

Thou hast greatly favoured us, O Lord, in granting us the ordinances of thy house, and in giving us the ability and the will to attend thy public worship, the

[a] Ephes. ii. 7.

preaching of thy Word, and the administration of thy sacraments. How many are self-debarred from these means of thine own institution for the good of souls; and how many attend them without desiring, or even thinking of any profit to be obtained by them. Suffer none of *us*, or of those who come within the sphere of our love or of our influence, either to neglect thy ordinances, or to attend them with carelessness. May we all be deeply impressed with the consciousness of thy peculiar presence in the midst of the great congregation;[b] and present our confessions, our prayers, and our thanksgivings with that holy awe upon our spirits which may prevent the slightest approach to levity or indifference. Teach us to come before thee with the earnestness and the confidence which we should feel, if thou, O blessed Saviour, wert now walking on our polluted earth, and "going about doing good."[c] We have

[b] See Matt. xviii. 20. [c] Acts x. 38.

our spiritual palsies, leprosies, and blindness to bring to thee for removal, besides the temporal wants of ourselves and friends, and the cases of many still "dead in trespasses and sins."[d] Thou didst not on earth reject a single applicant; but in addition to "the faith to be healed,"[e] which was thine own gift, didst generally exceed the request made to thee. And wilt thou, O compassionate Saviour, do *less*, *now* that thou art "exalted far above all heavens, that thou mayest fill all things?"[f] To thee, therefore, would we come, with all our sins, our short comings, and our wants,—both personal and relative,—entreating thee by thy love to sinners, "by thy cross and passion, by thy glorious resurrection and ascension;"[g] to do for *us*, who "desire to fear thy name,"[h] all that thou art accustomed to do for sinners like ourselves, whom thou hast "loved with an everlasting love, and

[d] Ephes. ii. 1. [e] Acts xiv. 9. [f] Ephes. iv. 10.
[g] Litany. [h] Neh. i. 11.

hast therefore drawn to thee with loving kindness."[i]

O God the Father, who hast "so loved the world, as to give thy only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life,"[k] grant unto us the character and spirit of thy chosen people. Make us willing subjects of "the King whom thou hast set on thy holy hill of Zion."[l] May we delight in His sovereignty, and desire to see an increasing multitude devoted in heart to Him, and subjected to His gentle yet all-powerful sway. Alas! how many of our fellow-creatures are either entirely ignorant of His glory, or wilfully neglectful of Him! From the height of thy heavenly exaltation what a mass of pollution and sin meets thy all-seeing eye, O Lord God! What forbearance, short of Divine, would continue the world in existence, filled as it is with rebellion against thee? But thou hast promised

[i] Jer. xxxi. 3. [k] John iii. 16. [l] Ps. ii. 6.

that "the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached among all nations before the end come;"[m] be pleased, O Lord, to fulfil this gracious assurance, and grant that "the great trumpet may be blown, and that they may come who were ready to perish and worship the Lord"[n] "in the beauty of holiness."[o] O be pleased to destroy the heathen blindness, the Mahometan delusion, the antichristian superstition, and the infidel scepticism, which are still spread over the greatest portion of the earth; and may those who by "the precept of men,"[p] have learned better things, be taught by the Holy Spirit their supreme value, be made happy partakers of thy grace and love, and be enabled to live so as to "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."[q] O thou, "in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways,"[r]

[m] Matt. xxiv. 14.
[n] Isa. xxvii. 13.
[o] Ps. xxix. 2.
[p] Isa. xxix. 13.
[q] Titus ii. 10.
[r] Dan. v. 23.

be pleased to continue the lives, and bless the labours of those whom thou hast honoured, by enabling them to promote the best interests of men, whether as ministers, Christian parents, or masters, or occupying any position of influence and responsibility. Enable them at all times to discharge their duties with conscientious regard to thy glory, and the good of those intrusted to their care. When thou shalt see fit to remove any of thy people from the Church on earth to thy immediate presence in heaven, O may it please thee to do *more* than fill up their vacant places, by fresh manifestations of thy grace, in "turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, thus making ready a people prepared for the Lord."[s] O grant that such gracious effects may result from the delivery of thy truth this day; may it prove "the day of thy power"[t] to many immortal souls, who shall be "born from above"[u]

[s] Luke i. 17. [t] Ps. cx. 3. [u] John iii. 3, 7.

to a new and spiritual life, "never again to come into condemnation!"[w] In going to thy house of prayer, O Lord, may we have the delightful expectation of learning something of thy grace and glory; may our hopes be exceeded, and our souls permanently benefited; and may thy special blessing rest on those who "absent in the flesh, are present in spirit"[x] in thine ordinances. Teach them in retirement, and bless both us and them with the Spirit of prayer and praise, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[w] John v. 24. [x] Colos. ii. 5.

SUNDAY EVENING.

ENABLE us, O thou "heart-searching God,"[a] to present our united addresses before thee, on this the evening of thine own day, with genuine sincerity, and deeply felt devotion. We reckon it one of our most distinguishing favours that we have been taught in any manner or degree to keep holy the day which thou hast "sanctified to thyself,"[b] thy command to observe the day is a blessing of no ordinary kind, and "in keeping it there is great reward."[c] In exercising the daily duty of self-examination, teach us to inquire diligently into the state of

[a] 1 Chron. xxviii. 9. [b] Gen. ii. 3.
[c] Psalm xix. 11.

our affections with respect to this day; and should any of us find that we do not love and delight in it as thy people do, enable us to search out the cause of so fearful a state of things; nor suffer us to feel satisfied, till, confessing and bewailing the natural enmity of our hearts against everything holy and godly, we take refuge in the atoning sacrifice and justifying righteousness of the Lord Jesus.

If we have hitherto permitted ourselves to engage in occupations unsuitable to the sanctity of the day, or in any which we consider to be of a doubtful character, give us grace, O Lord, to make any sacrifice which may be for thy glory and the good of our souls;—so that, "plucking out, as it were, the right eye, or cutting off the right hand which causes us to offend,"[d]—we may enjoy the consciousness of sincerity and consistency in our professed religion,—and also, that

[d] Matt. v. 29, 30.

which is of infinitely greater value, thine own approbation of our conduct.

We are conscious, gracious Lord, that if in all these respects our outward conduct appear to be in conformity with thy revealed will,—we are nevertheless guilty of "polluting"[e] thy sabbath, and "thy holy name" also, with sins unseen to mortal eyes. O be pleased, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive the sins into which we are prone to fall, especially on these thine own days. We acknowledge with shame and self-reproach, that often, when apparently engaged in solemn prayer, our hearts wander from our lips, and leave us guilty of "taking thy name in vain;"[f] that in reading or hearing thy Word, or endeavouring to meditate upon it, our minds are carried away with some frivolous or secular train of thought, if not with positive evil; and that when attending the preaching of the everlasting Gospel, we

[e] *Ezek.* xx. 13, 21, 39. [f] Exodus xx. 7.

are often engaged with some comparatively unimportant particular, rather than in hearing it with prayerful self-application,—as for eternity. For these, and many other evils, "our hearts condemn us,"[g] blessed be thou, O Lord, for opening the door of return to us sinners, who, if dealt with according to our transgressions, might have long ago been "suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."[h] Thou hast sent us through Christ the word of reconciliation;—thou hast declared thyself "ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all that call upon thee."[i] Yet though thy wonderful provision of redemption and grace exactly suits our need, thou knowest, O Lord, that not one of the fallen children of Adam will ever attempt, or even "desire to come unto thee,"[k] without thy "grace by Christ preventing him, that he may have a good will, and working with him when he hath

[g] 1 John iii. 20.
[h] Jude 7.
[i] Psalm lxxxvi. 5.
[k] John v. 40.

that good will."[l] O that every one (of our beloved family whether or not) now among us, may be graciously included in that covenant of grace which secures both will and power, both grace and glory. Make thy love and pity known by delivering us and all our dear connexions from the dominion of sin in any form, or under any disguises. Enlighten our consciences to perceive its evil; make us reject and abhor it, and earnestly ask forgiveness of its guilt, and deliverance from its power. Make us ardently to desire to be, "not under the law, but under grace, so that sin may not have dominion over us."[m] Deliver us from every "yoke of bondage,"[n] and enable us to serve thee in the liberty of the Gospel, and with the spirit of children.

May the discoveries of the last great day make it manifest, O Lord, that thy kingdom on earth has been greatly enlarged by thy blessing vouchsafed this

[l] *Art.* x. [m] Rom. vi. 14. [n] Gal. v. i.

day on the ministrations of those whom thou hast commissioned to speak in thy name; and may many of thy people "go on their way rejoicing"[o] through the refreshment afforded them in thy "house of prayer."[p] May those who have this day begun a serious inquiry relative to the state and prospects of their immortal souls, be so taught of thee as never to give up the search after salvation and peace, until they shall find them in thee through Christ our Lord.

O holy "Spirit of wisdom and revelation,"[q] of "grace and supplication,"[r] graciously teach us how to pray with more feeling of our wants, more humility, more earnestness and perseverance than we have ever yet done, both for spiritual and all needful temporal blessings, for ourselves, our dear relatives, our friends, our ministers, our neighbourhood, our sovereign, and our country; and help us

[o] Acts viii. 39.
[p] Isa. lvi. 7.
[q] Eph. i. 17.
[r] Zech. xii. 10.

to ask for them all in faith, expecting all good things out of the fulness treasured up in Christ Jesus our Lord, for whose sake alone we ask for every favour and blessing; and to the all gracious and triune Jehovah be everlasting praise and glory. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU who "art rich"[a] in mercy "unto all that call upon thee," be pleased to grant us grace "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, to make known our requests unto thee."[b] We know that "if we regard iniquity in our hearts, thou wilt not hear us;"[c] be pleased, therefore, to cleanse them from all the pollutions of idols too often set up in them,[d] and from evil of every kind, and make them, with our bodies, "the temple of the Holy Ghost."[e] O do thou "dwell in us, and walk in us,"[f] causing us to come out from among the men of the world, and be separated unto thee.

[a] Rom. x. 12.
[b] Phil. iv. 6.
[c] Ps. lxvi. 18.
[d] Ez. xiv. 3.
[e] 1 Cor. vi. 19.
[f] 2 Cor. vi. 16—18.

Suffer us not to touch the unclean thing, and thus working in us obedience to thy holy will, glorify thyself in the fulfilment to us of thy gracious promises, "I will receive you, and I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty;" through the sanctifying influence of such promises, enable us, O Lord, "to cleanse ourselves of all filthiness of the flesh and of the Spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." [g]

Make us truly thankful, gracious Lord, for the privilege of prayer, and mercifully enable us to make far more use of it than we have ever yet done; and teach us to expect more advantage from its exercise than we have yet thought of. From blessed experience of its efficacy may we learn to address thee by a name in which thou dost delight. "O thou that hearest prayer," [h] give to us, in constantly increasing degree, not only the desire to

[g] 2 Cor. vii. 1. [h] Ps. lxv. 2.

"pour out our hearts before thee,"[i] in expectation through the Saviour's merit of being heard and answered; but the knowledge of what we ought to ask, and to expect from thee, who art accustomed to "give liberally, and not to upbraid."[j] Make us ardently long for the very blessings which, under thine own inspiration, became the subjects of the intercessory prayers of an apostle.[k] O grant us according to the riches of thy glory, to be strengthened with might by thy Spirit in the inner man. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God." Make us rejoice that thou art "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask

[i] Ps. lxii. 8. [j] James i. 5.
[k] Ephes. iii. 16—19.

or think;"[l] and help us to believe that thou art also willing, since, thou "hast not spared thine own Son,"[m] but "hast sent Him to be a propitiation for sin."[n]

Help us, O Lord, to pray, and to join thanksgiving with our supplications, for ourselves, for all who are dear to us, and for the extending triumphs of thy grace throughout the world, until the hand of death shall stop the breath of prayer, and leave to us nothing but praise in the full fruition of glory in thy immediate presence to all eternity.

We bless thee, most merciful God, for the revelation of such a hope, and especially if the possession of present grace in any of our number, affords the pledge of future glory. To thine own name be all the praise of these prospects of happiness, and for the wonderful means by which they were procured. We bless thee for setting apart a peculiar people to be monuments of thy grace; we bless

[l] Eph. iii. 20. [m] Rom. viii. 32. [n] 1 John iv. 10.

thee for giving thy dear Son to become incarnate, and pay the penalty of His people's sins; and for the gift of thy holy Spirit to apply the precious blood of Jesus to the conscience, and to reveal the riches of thy grace to the heirs of glory; and we pray, that by thy distinguishing and special mercy, we may each have a place and portion among the people "whom thou thus hast blessed."[o]

O thou "King eternal, immortal, invisible,"[p] be pleased to grant that the testimony of "thy ambassadors,"[q] who yesterday proclaimed in thy name "the word of reconciliation,"[r] may be remembered by many of their hearers, not only this day, but throughout their lives, and prove a support and solace in the solemn hour when "heart and flesh shall fail."[s]

Give thy blessing to our temporal concerns throughout the week; may they

[o] Isa. lxi. 9. [p] 1 Tim. i. 17.
[q] 2 Cor. v. 20. [r] 2 Cor. v. 19.
[s] Ps. lxxiii. 26.

all be under thy guidance, and graciously be pleased to preserve us from the fascinations of outward things to the injury of our souls; but while "diligent in business," according to thy command, make us also "fervent in spirit, serving thee."[t]

Graciously include all our dear friends in merciful answers to these our imperfect prayers; and to Thee, O Lord, the Author and Giver of all good, be everlasting praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[t] Rom. xii. 11.

MONDAY EVENING.

O THOU invisible and incomprehensible Lord God Almighty, we desire to adore thy glorious attributes, and to admire thy wonderful works. Far from being able to apprehend either the one or the other, the mind of man sinks under the contemplation of even a single display of either thy glory or thy goodness. We could not "see thee and live;"[a] though thou art He "in whom we live, and move, and have our being."[b] O grant, that however thou art concealed by excessive brightness both from our bodily and our mental faculties, we may not be spiritually ignorant of thee, "whom to know is life eternal;"[c] but be pleased

[a] Exod. xxxiii. 20. [b] Acts xvii. 28.
[c] John xvii. 3.

to grant us such faith that we may "see thee who art invisible,"[d] and so perceive thy glory as to "be transformed"[e] into thy likeness "by the renewal of our minds, that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Make us willing and anxious to learn of Jesus, "who is meek and lowly in heart; thus may we find rest unto our souls, and prove that His yoke is easy, and His burden light."[f]

O enlighten our understandings, and fill our souls with "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."[g]

Thou hast mercifully revealed thyself, O Lord, in thy precious word; but without the enlightening influences of God the Holy Spirit we know that we shall not effectually learn anything profitable to our souls even from the sacred Scriptures. O be pleased to show us their mean-

[d] Heb. xi. 27. [e] Rom. xii. 2.
[f] Matt. xi. 29. 30. [g] 2 Cor. iv. 6.

ing, their application to our case and character, and the revelation they make of our future portion. Help us to receive them, as containing thy special message to each of us in particular, and teach us to discover, and enable us to meditate upon those parts especially which refer most particularly to our own individual cases and necessities. Do thou be pleased to give us a right estimate of our own character, so that we may not think of ourselves "more highly than we ought to think, but learn to think soberly,"[h] humbly, and profitably.

Since thy word, O Lord, describes the character and course of many who walked so as to please thee while here on earth, enable us by the same spirit which animated them, to follow in the same path, desirous of "walking with thee,"[i] of "laying aside every weight,"[j] and ever "looking unto Jesus, the author and

[h] Rom. xii. 3. [i] Gen. v. 24.
[j] Heb. xii. 1, 2.

finisher of our faith." May hope in Him lead us to the constant endeavour "to walk even as He walked;"[k] and to "purify ourselves even as He is pure."[l] Graciously grant us the sweet privilege of communion with Him in prayer and other acts of worship; and of a realizing view of the relations in which He condescends to stand to the Church, which is His flock,[m] His bride,[n] His body.[o] May our faith in Him be strengthened by all that we daily hear or read of His majesty and His mercy, of His power and His grace, and may every renewed consideration of these things tend to bring us nearer to Him in the exercise of faith and grateful love.

Suffer not that any among us, or those endeared to us by the ties of relationship or friendship, should reject Him, who as "the Lamb of God taketh away the sin

[k] 1 John ii. 6. [l] 1 John iii. 3.
[m] John x. 14. [n] Rev. xxi. 9.
[o] 1 Eph. i. 23.

of the world,"[p] lest eventually they find "that the wrath of the Lamb"[q] has power "to destroy both soul and body in hell."[r]

We pray thee, O God of all grace, who hast promised that[s] all nations shall be blessed in Christ, to diffuse the light of His glorious gospel throughout the earth "to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death; to guide their feet into the way of peace;"[t] and grant that it may illuminate the hearts of many around whom it now shines, but who continue to "love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil."[u] Make us thankful that thou hast fixed our habitation in a country on which the "Sun of righteousness has risen with healing in His wings."[w] May this inestimable blessing be the means of spiritual

[p] John i. 29.
[q] Rev. vi. 16.
[r] Matt. x. 28.
[s] Gal. iii. 8 and 16.
[t] Luke i. 79.
[u] John iii. 19.
[w] Mal. iv. 2.

benediction to millions of our countrymen, as it has long been the source of our temporal enjoyments. O make us a people "fearing thee and working righteousness,"[x] cause us to turn from our national sins with zeal and deep repentance, and graciously avert those evils and dangers which are the due result of continued neglect of thy laws. Withdraw not thy long-suffering mercy from our guilty land, but magnify that mercy in sparing us, and in delivering us from our sins, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[x] Acts x. 35.

TUESDAY MORNING.

In all our professed approaches to thee, most merciful God, be pleased to grant that it may be our desire and our privilege to find that "our fellowship truly is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ,"[a] through the constant influence of the Holy Spirit Jehovah. Thus alone can we worship thee, who art "a Spirit, in spirit and in truth."[b] "Of thine own,"[c] O Lord, alone can "we give thee;" for unless thou "prepare our hearts"[d] to pray, as well as "incline thine ear to hear," our professed supplications will never avail to bring down

[a] 1 John i. 3. [b] John iv. 24.
[c] 1 Chron. xxix. 14. [d] Ps. x. 17.

one blessing from thy boundless stores of grace.

Of thine infinite mercy in Christ be therefore pleased, O Lord, to give us such a sense of our necessities, and of thy fulness of compassion, that we may be induced and encouraged to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."[e]

If desiring this mercy, how greatly may we be encouraged in asking it of thee, O Lord, by the consideration of the glorious Person whom thou hast constituted the dispenser of thy favours to guilty men; since He is no other than "Jesus Christ the righteous,"[f] "God manifest in the flesh."[g]

We bless thee, O God the Father Almighty, for that amazing love which caused thee to send thy well-beloved Son into this world of woe, to redeem

[e] Heb. iv. 16. [f] 1 John ii. 1.
[g] 1 Tim. iii. 16.

thy chosen people. We thank thee, O blessed Saviour, for that rich display of boundless love which thou didst manifest in being willing to undertake a work so full of humiliation, of grief, and of suffering. We adore thee, O Holy Spirit, for revealing and applying these glorious truths which could never "have entered the heart of man"[h] to conceive, hadst thou not caused them to be written in the word of inspiration, and "opened the heart"[i] to understand what is there recorded.

O illuminate our hearts with the knowledge of Christ; graciously reveal to us, so far as our imperfect faculties can bear, the glory of His divine nature, that we may learn to worship Him with unfeigned "reverence and godly fear."[j] Show us the greatness of His deep condescension in abasing Himself to take upon Him our

[h] 1 Cor. ii. 9. [i] Acts xvi. 14.
[j] Heb. xii. 28.

nature, and to dwell with creatures so weak, so fallen, so defiled. Teach us to follow Him in spirit from His nativity throughout the course of His temptations and His labours of love, to the bitter agony of the garden and the sufferings of the cross. Help us to view Him rising from the tomb, ascending into heaven, sitting down at the right hand of God, and "ever living to make intercession for those who come unto God by Him."[k]

Make us to rejoice in this glorious exaltation of Christ in His mediatorial character; and may our feeble praises even now unite with the song of the redeemed before the throne, who are saying, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."[l]

Thus enable us, O Lord, to "consider

[k] Heb. vii. 25. [l] Rev. v. 12.

Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself."[m] May the remembrance of His sufferings make us hate our sins, which could be expiated only by such a sacrifice; and may the consideration of His present glory, urge us to flee to Him for refuge from all our sins and all our enemies, knowing that "all power is given unto Him in heaven and in earth,"[n]—that He is "the mighty God"[o] and "mighty to save."[p] "Thanks be unto thee,"[q] O God, for the unspeakable gift "of thy dear Son." Enable us to receive Him into our hearts with the utmost exercise of our love and affection, and to be his faithful soldiers and servants to our lives' end. May the holy and purifying principle of love be implanted in every heart among us, as yet destitute of this precious gift; and may it grow more strong and influential wherever found

[m] Heb. xii. 3. [n] Matt. xxviii. 18.
[o] Isa. ix. 6. [p] Isa. lxiii. 1.
[q] 2 Cor. ix. 15.

even in its feeblest development, and may those among us, who are conscious of having "thy love shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto them,"[r] find their love to thee daily increasing, and becoming more abundantly fruitful in every good word and work to the glory of thy holy name. For what greater blessing can we ask thee, O thou God of love, than for the reflection of thine own love on our hearts, tending to assimilate them to thee? Knowing something of "the comfort of love and the fellowship of the Spirit,"[s] may we find it our privilege to pray not for ourselves only, but for every militant member of thy holy church universal, that we "being rooted and grounded in love,"[t] may "grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ,"[u] and, tracing our love to its source in Him may learn to say, "We love Him be-

[r] Rom. v. 5.
[s] Phil. ii. 1.
[t] *Eph. iii.* 17.
[u] Ibid. iv. 15.

cause he first loved us,"[w] and "unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion, for ever and ever."[x] Amen.

[w] 1 John iv. 19. [x] Rev. i. 5, 6.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O THOU self-existent and almighty God, we, the creatures of thy power, called into being by thy will, and continued in life by thy supporting hand, desire to feel and to acknowledge that we are absolutely dependent upon thee for "life, and breath, and all things;"[a] and that it is our duty and our privilege, willingly to devote to thee every power with which thou hast endued us, whether bodily, mental, or spiritual. Our animal frames are the workmanship of thy almighty power and skill, our mental faculties are still more incomprehensible to us, and should be more glorifying to thee; while

[a] Acts xvii. 25.

those of us whom thou hast "renewed in the spirit of their minds,"[b] are yet more strongly bound to "yield themselves unto thee, as those that are alive from the dead; and their members as instruments of righteousness unto God."[c]

Though all our views on any subjects connected with thee, the incomprehensible God, or with ourselves as thy creatures, must necessarily be very low and inadequate, yet grant that they may be very profitable to us;—and that "the enmity"[d] of the natural mind being "slain," "our meditation of thee may be sweet, and we be made glad in the Lord."[e]

If any of us have hitherto followed only the trifles of each passing hour, thoughtless of the high origin of our immortal souls, be pleased graciously to arouse such from the dreams of spiritual sleep, and the torpor of spiritual death, and grant that the realities of a future

[b] Eph. iv. 23.
[c] Rom. vi. 13.
[d] Eph. ii. 16.
[e] Ps. civ. 34.

state may be brought vividly and profi ably before the eye of the mind. Teac us all, O Lord, however much or litt these absorbing topics may have engage our attention hitherto, to live hencefort as those who, though in one sense only the creatures of a day, are yet heirs o immortality. O that serious considera tion of the solemnities of eternity,—ar unchanging state of existence, supreme either in happiness or misery, may be come so influential on the character o each, by the power of thy Holy Spirit that we may earnestly seek, in all thy appointed ways, for that "meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light" which thou alone canst impart. Know ing that as "the tree falleth so it must lie,"[g] be pleased to grant that our fruit may be such as to prove us of thine own "planting,"[h] so that "whether we live we may live unto the Lord; and whe ther we die, we may die unto the Lord,—

[f] Col. i. 12. [g] Eccles. xi. 3. [h] See Isa. lxi. 3.

that therefore living or dying we may be the Lord's."[i]

May due consideration of the shortness of time tend to produce patience under the sufferings of life, and also to take off the false glare which often gilds earthly objects only to deceive; and may meditation on eternity so expand and solemnise our conceptions, that we may be the better prepared to form a due estimate of the various objects on which our judgment must be every day exercised. Suffer not, gracious Lord, that any of us should be satisfied with a supposed neutrality of choice, but in all cases teach as "to refuse the evil, and to choose the good"[k] with decided preference, and follow it with ardent pursuit.

And when the busy scenes of life shall be about to be withdrawn from our sight, O grant that, far from casting any longing lingering look behind, we may gladly behold them waning from our view; and

[i] Rom xiv. 8. [k] Isa. vii. 16.

be favoured with a cheering glimpse of heavenly glory, and a good hope through grace of shortly entering into "thy presence where is fulness of joy,"[l] and of being "at thy right hand, where are pleasures for evermore." While earnestly endeavouring "to do our duty in that state of life unto which it hath pleased thee to call us,"[m] permit us not to be overcharged with "the cares or riches, or pleasures of this life,"[n] nor to deceive ourselves with the thought that earthly things, if allowed, without restraint, to occupy the mind in life, will in death naturally cease to attract, and leave the heart in a fit state for that solemn event. O give us grace daily to renounce the world, not only in its undisguised evils, but in every appearance by which it would allure or affright us into sinful compliances. "Let not any iniquity have dominion over us,"[o] but help us to wage continual war against

[l] Psalm xvi. 11.
[m] Catechism.
[n] Luke viii. 14.
[o] Psalm cxix. 133.

it in every form. Do thou arm us for the fight, give us strength, courage, perseverance, and everything needful for daily and for final victory; and take to thyself the glory of making us eventually "more than conquerors"[p] over every enemy and every fear.

Hating sin preeminently in our own hearts, and continually occupied in "casting out the beam out of our own eye,"[q] graciously assist us, O Lord, in every attempt we ought to make for the deliverance of others from the power of iniquity. Teach us in our measure to imitate thee in our hatred of sin, and our love to the person of the sinner; and mercifully grant that not a single individual with whom we have any connexion may be "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin,"[r] by witnessing in *us*, who profess reverence for thy holy name, any allowed

[p] Rom. viii. 37. [q] Matt. vii. 3—5.

[r] Heb. iii. 13.

violation of thy command, or complia
with sinful practices.

Graciously defend us, Almighty G
throughout our sleeping hours, fr
every danger, whether spiritual or c
poreal; in our return to the active du
of life "deliver us from every e
work,"[a] and eventually bring us "
thy heavenly kingdom" for the sake
the Lord Jesus, to whom with
Father and the Holy Spirit be gl
for ever and ever. Amen.

[a] 2 Tim. iv. 18

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ENABLE us, most condescending God, if only for a few moments, to enter as it were in spirit, into thy holy dwelling-place; to behold something of thy majesty and glory, and to hear thy praises from those before thy throne. Cherubim and seraphim, and all the hosts of angels who stand in thy presence confirmed in original purity, continually cry before thee, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts,"[a] while "the spirits of just men made perfect"[b] are tuned to a song of louder praise; corresponding with their still deeper obligations. Falling before the throne of God and the Lamb; and

[a] Isa. vi. 3. [b] Heb. xii. 23.

casting their crowns at His feet; they sing a new song, saying, "Thou art worthy, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation, and hast made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign"[c] for ever and ever.

O that through the merit of the same atoning sacrifice, by the exercise of the same sovereign love and preserving power, we may eventually join that holy happy throng who are beyond the reach of danger, misery, or sin. *Now* indeed, though surrounded with innumerable mercies and causes for thankfulness, we are sorrowful because we are sinful, and exposed to danger from many powerful enemies, while found too often wandering from Thee our only preserver.

It is in infinite condescension, that thou, O God of love, dost "humble thyself to behold the things which are in

[c] Rev. v. 9, 10.

heaven;"[d] how much lower then must thou stoop to cast an eye of pity on us, "who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust; and who are crushed before the moth;[e] yet hast thou said, O thou "high and lofty One that inhabitest eternity, whose name is holy,—I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."[f] How unworthy are we of such regard, but how will thy mercy be magnified, O Lord, if thou wilt condescend to make *our* hearts a "habitation for thee through the Spirit!"[g] *then*, our praises, though weak and unworthy, shall be unceasing and everlasting for so rich a display of compassion and sovereign grace. We ask thee, that while we remain on earth, our "treasure and our hearts may be in heaven,"[h] and that

[d] Ps. cxiii. 6. [e] Job iv. 19. [f] Isa. lvii. 15.
[g] Eph. ii. 22. [h] Matt. vi. 20, 21.

when thou, O blessed Saviour, shalt be pleased "to come to receive us to thyself,"[i] we may say with exceeding joy, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and he will save us; this is the Lord, we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."[k]

In going on our way towards this blessed consummation, help us, O Lord, to live and walk by faith; fetching in constant supplies of strength by prayer to thee, the Giver of all good, desiring that thou wouldest "bless us and make us a blessing."[l]

Knowing that the most effectual means of benefiting others is to *pray* that *thou* wouldest be pleased to bless them, enable us in humility, faith, and love, to offer up intercessions for the spiritual and temporal welfare of all for whom we ought to pray. O that our dear relatives and friends may "live before thee,"[m] spiri-

[i] John xiv. 3.
[k] Isa. xxv. 9.
[l] Gen. xii. 2.
[m] Gen. xvii. 18.

tually here on earth, and eternally with thee in heaven. As they who "rule over men should be just, ruling in the fear of God,"[n] be pleased to grant, O thou "King of kings and Lord of lords,"[o] that attention to thy will may become the ruling principle of our sovereign, her council, our legislative assemblies, and all who hold authority among us; that so, the "righteousness which exalteth a nation,"[p] may be the distinguishing characteristic of our native country. May it please thee to put an effectual check to the rise of antichristian power among us, whether attempted by political intrigue, or by the diffusion of doctrinal errors. Deliver those who are entangled in these or other delusions; and in mercy raise up an increasing number of faithful and efficient teachers of thy truth, by whose instrumentality the sound of "the everlasting Gospel,"[q] may be heard in

[n] 2 Sam. xxiii. 3.
[o] Rev. xix. 16.
[p] Prov. xiv. 34.
[q] Rev. xiv. 6.

every corner of our land, and throughout the whole earth; accompany their testimony with the effectual working of thy power, and bring many "from the east and from the west, from the north, and from the south, to sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven."[r] Increase among us the spirit of bountiful liberality and of earnest prayer in support of all efforts to diffuse scriptural instruction throughout our country, and every part of the world. Give them thy blessing; suffer not "thy word to return unto thee void, but make it to accomplish that which thou dost please, and to prosper in the thing whereto thou hast sent it."[s] And in thine own good time be pleased to bring *us* all to thy heavenly kingdom, with the whole multitude of thy elect and redeemed people; to praise and adore thee for ever and ever. Amen.

[r] Matt. viii. 11, and Luke xiii. 29.

[s] Isa. lv. 11.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

"O LORD, thou hast searched us, and known us, thou knowest our downsitting and our uprising, thou understandest our thoughts afar off."[a] "Whither shall we go from thy Spirit? or whither shall we flee from thy presence?"[b] for thou "fillest heaven and earth,"[c] O Lord God. How delightful must these considerations be to the holy spirits ever around thy throne, beholding thy glory and rejoicing in thy love; but what shame and fear must naturally possess *our* minds as sinners, at the realized conception that not only our outward iniquities, but our inward abominations are open before thee,

[a] Psalm cxxxix. 1, 2. [b] Ibid. cxxxix. 7.
[c] Jer. xxiii. 24.

the God of infinite purity. The presence of thy omniscient eye, and of thy vengeful but just retribution, is the misery of "the spirits now in prison."[d] "Hell is naked before thee, and destruction hath no covering."[e] O spare us, in mercy spare us, the bitter but fruitless remorse, which unpardoned sin must cause to all eternity. Suffer none of us to rest without seeking and finding that salvation which thou hast prepared for guilty sinners. By the work of the [f]Holy Spirit, in mercy convince us truly of our sins;—of their innumerable multitude and deep aggravation, their heinous guilt and their just desert. May the distressing but salutary pain of these discoveries lead those among us who may be yet in a state of spiritual death, to apply with diligence and perseverance to that blessed Saviour who alone can heal the soul of its spiritual maladies, and raise it to a new and divine life.

[d] *1 Peter* iii. 19 [e] Job xxvi. 6.
[f] John xvi. 8.

If outward sins have too exclusively occupied our attention hitherto, help us, O Lord, to learn the humiliating truths that the evils unseen by men are far more numerous, and often more defiling than those which they perceive; that we are utterly unable either to make atonement to God for our transgressions, or to stem the torrent of our corruptions. To those of our number whom thou hast taught these initiatory truths, be pleased, O most merciful God, to reveal that what we cannot do for ourselves, thou art able to do for us, and that thou hast engaged to do it for all whom thou hast taught heartily to desire and pray for these unspeakable blessings. The redemption price is paid in the accepted sacrifice of thy dear Son, and the gift of the Holy Spirit to renew and cleanse the heart is promised as the consequence of that one offering "the just for the unjust."[g] We therefore come to thee,

[g] 1 Peter iii. 18.

O Lord, "the Father of mercies,"[h] guilty and defiled as we are, entreating that that precious blood once shed, may "sprinkle us from an evil conscience;"[i] and thy Holy Spirit as "pure water," cleanse us from all defilement, and "renew a right spirit within us."[k]

If in the abundance of thy mercy thou hast given to any among us "the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins,"[l] be pleased, O God of all grace, to strengthen the work of thy grace in our hearts, "fill us with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to thy glory and praise,"[m] and with "all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost."[n] "As we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so help us to walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as we have been

[h] 2 Cor. i. 3.
[i] Heb. x. 22.
[k] Ps. li. 10.
[l] Luke i. 77.
[m] Phil. i. 11.
[n] Rom. xv. 13.

taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."[o] "Sanctify us by thy truth,"[p] "Keep us from the evil of the world,"[q] "Make us perfect in one,"[r] and eventually bring us to be "with thee, where thou art, to behold thy glory,"[s] and to give thee thanks for ever.

Be merciful to us, O Lord, as a family; may those who bear rule remember that their Master[t] also is in heaven; (may our children be the children of God by "Adoption and grace;") and our servants desire in all things to "serve the Lord Christ."[u] May the younger members of our household be prepared to live usefully, and the elder to die happily; and remembering that at all ages we are exposed to death, impress upon the mind of each that nothing is worth living for but to be prepared to die.

Sanctify any family afflictions or trials

[o] Col. ii. 6, 7.
[p] John xvii. 17.
[q] John xvii. 15.
[r] Ib. verse xxii.
[s] Ib. verse 24.
[t] Eph. vi. 9.
[u] Col. iii. 24.

which thou seest to be good for us; may they produce the intended result, and be removed when that shall have been attained. Bless the healthfulness of the robust among us, and the weakness of the infirm or sickly. May both promote the sympathy which adds so greatly to family happiness, and lightens so much the load of present evils. Help us to "bear one another's burdens," and in praying one for another, may we find a blessing to our own souls, as well as a gracious answer for the benefit of others.

Take us under thy watchful care for the night; and preserve us from all enemies both of body and soul. Forgive the numerous sins of the past day, make us thankful for its abundant mercies, and give us confidence in thee to look for a continuance of them for thy mercy's sake alone in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

We thank thee, gracious God, for thy renewed preservation through the dangers, whether seen or unseen, of another night. "We laid us down and slept; we awaked, for the Lord sustained us."[a] "Blessed be thou, O Lord, who daily loadest us with benefits, even thou, the God of our salvation."[b] Condescend thus ever to be our guardian, so that depending on thy protecting care we may always say, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee;"[c] and praise thee by the acknowledgment that having "sought thee, thou hast heard us, and delivered us from all our fears."[d] Were it not for thy

[a] Ps. iii. 5. [b] Ps. lxviii. 19. [c] Ps. lvi. 3. [d] Ps. xxxiv. 4.

protection, we should indeed have the greatest cause for alarm, for not only are the snares of the world spread in our path on every side;—not only are we endangered every moment by the strength and subtlety of innumerable powers of darkness, but we have most dangerous and deceitful foes within our hearts, ever ready to take part with all other enemies of our souls, and to work for evil, even when danger is least suspected. When temptations to outward sin are apparently withdrawn, how prompt is pride to rise, and fill the mind with false imaginations of good in self! O teach us how displeasing this spirit of self-complacency is in thy sight, O Lord. In mercy pull down these towering Babels of conceit and self-righteousness, and bring us in deep humiliation to the feet of Jesus, the only place of safety and of peace.

Make us mainly anxious to be assured that thou the Lord of all power and might, art indeed *our friend;* and then,

we need "not fear what man can do unto us,"[e] nor doubt of obtaining the final victory over all the hosts of hell, and all the corruptions of our own hearts. Make us joyfully to anticipate thy heavenly glory, from the consideration of entire deliverance from sin, and ability to serve thee in a manner far beyond our present conceptions.

In our progress towards this blessed termination, suffer it not to be doubtful, either to others or to ourselves, that we are walking in thy ways, and "cleaving to thee with purpose of heart."[f] Make us to fear sin far more than affliction;[g] deliver us from its cruel tyranny and from its delusive snares; and when assailed by temptation to evil, help us to look to the bleeding Saviour, and from love to Him learn to say, "How can we do this great wickedness and sin against God?"[h] Be

[e] Ps. cxviii. 6. [f] Acts xi. 23.
[g] See Job xxxvi. 21. [h] Gen. xxxix. 9.

thou our King, to rule over our hearts, and by thy power to subdue all thy foes that lurk within, and to deliver us from those without who seek our destruction. O "deliver our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling, and enable us to walk before thee in the light of the living."[i]

If any among us have not yet begun to feel alarmed at the present nature and future consequences of sin, nor to "fear thee who art able to destroy both soul and body in hell,"[k] mercifully implant such salutary dread as may effectually check the progress of evil, and bring the conscious sinner to seek pardon and salvation in Christ alone. Graciously abate the fears of those who, alarmed on account of sin, are hastening to "lay hold of the hope set before them"[l] in the Gospel. Speak in mercy to the hearts of such among us, saying, "Fear not ye,

[i] Ps. cxvi. 8, 9. [k] Matt. x. 28.
[l] Heb. vi. 18.

for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified."[m] Let "perfect love cast out tormenting fear,"[n] dishonourable to thee and distressing to our souls; but let filial fear of offending thee, O Lord, instrumentally preserve us from all that is displeasing to thee. May the confidence of "faith" in thy promises of support and help in every time of need "grow exceedingly;"[o] so that, "rejoicing in hope of the glory of God"[p] we may meet even the last enemy without dismay, trusting to thy unmerited love and almighty protection.

May all thy people be distinguished with the same blessings which thy precious promises encourage us to ask for ourselves. "Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them; let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous;

[m] Matt. xxviii. 5.
[n] 1 John iv. 18.
[o] 2 Thess. i. 3.
[p] Rom. v. 2.

with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."[q]

We pray thee, most merciful God, according to the riches of thy grace, to deliver increasing multitudes from the love of sin, and the cruel grasp of the enemy of souls; and bring them, with ourselves, and all who are near and dear to us, into "the glorious liberty of the children of God."[r] We ask these spiritual and eternal blessings, together with those of a temporal nature, which thou knowest to be good for us, through Jesus Christ our only Mediator and Redeemer.

[q] Ps. v. 11, 12. [r] Rom. viii. 21.

THURSDAY EVENING.

The shades of darkness once more gathered around, remind us of thy faithful promise, O thou God of truth, that "while the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."[a] Make us constantly to remember that "the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day;"[b] and that "there is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves."[c] Suffer us not even to desire that there should be any such place, but on the contrary earnestly pray, "O send out thy light

[a] Gen. viii. 22. [b] Ps. cxxxix. 12.
[c] Job xxxiv. 22.

and thy truth, let them lead us, and bring us to thy holy hill and to thy tabernacles."[d]

The darkness and cold of night are fit emblems of the natural state of our hearts, as we have turned from thee, the only fountain of light; and "the blackness of darkness for ever,"[e] will be the deserved result of this fearful apostacy, unless thou, "the Father of lights,"[f] wilt in mercy interpose to rescue us from the danger into which we have brought our precious souls. O Holy Spirit, be graciously pleased to illuminate them in the knowledge of those things without which we must be eternally lost. "Deliver us, O Lord, from the power of darkness, and translate us into the kingdom of thy dear Son; give us redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins;"[g] and "make us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the

[d] Ps. xliii. 3.
[e] Jude 13.
[f] James i. 17.
[g] Coloss. i. 13, 14.

saints in light."[h] If in any degree "the darkness is past, and the true light hath begun to shine,"[i] help us to be thankful for so great and undeserved a blessing, and teach us in all things "to take heed unto thy sure word, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in our hearts."[k] Bring us with all the desire of our hearts to that blessed Saviour who said, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth in me should not abide in darkness."[l] May the light of life and the warmth of love beaming on these barren hearts make them fruitful in every good word and work. Make us to "know that thou hast loved us"[m] by finding love to thee kindled in our souls, (which could arise from no other source,) by willing obedience to all thy commands, and by that sweet commu-

[h] Col. i. 12. [i] 1 John ii. 8.
[k] 2 Pet. i. 19. [l] John xii. 46.
[m] Rev. iii. 9.

nion and fellowship with which thou dost often favour thy believing people. In the blessed experience of *this*, teach us individually to say with thy Church, "My beloved is mine, and I am His."[n] "He is the chiefest among ten thousand,"[o] "Yea, He is altogether lovely."[p]

Show thyself, gracious Lord, in the majesty and glory of thy love; so shall even thine enemies become a "people willing in the day of thy power;"[q] thy saints "shall praise thee with joyful lips,"[r] and thy name be magnified throughout the earth.

Make it manifest that thou hast "called us out of darkness into thy marvellous light,"[s] by enabling us to "walk as children of the light, proving what is acceptable to the Lord."[t] Suffer us "not to sleep as do others, but make us watch and be sober; putting on the breastplate of faith and

[n] Cant. ii. 16.
[o] Cant. v. 10.
[p] Ib. 16.
[q] Ps. cx. 2, 3.
[r] Ps. lxiii. 5.
[s] 1 Pet. ii. 9.
[t] Eph. v. 8, 10.

love,[u] and for a helmet the hope of salvation, believing that thou, O God, hast not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." May our "path be as the shining light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day;"[w] and may the bright beams of "the Sun of righteousness" upon our souls be the harbinger and dawn of an eternal day of happiness and holiness in thy immediate presence, O Lord, the gracious Author of all our hopes and the Giver of all our blessings.

Under the shadow of thy wings may we trust for protection throughout the night on which we are entering, and for defence from all the spirits of darkness, who both in our sleeping and waking hours are on the watch to injure, and if possible to destroy. Suffer them not to alarm our minds, nor pollute our imaginations, either by evil dreams or tempta-

[u] 1 Thess. v. 6, 8, 9. [w] Prov. iv. 18.
[x] Mal. iv. 2.

tions of any kind; but let us "lie down in peace and sleep, knowing that thou, O Lord, only canst make us dwell in safety."[y] Give us sweet and profitable meditation on thy love, and enable us to commend ourselves with all our connexions unto thee in believing prayer, and with the exercise of unfeigned thanksgiving for all the blessings with which thou hast so richly crowned our lot. May we ever "praise thee more and more,"[z] while here on earth, and hereafter join in a nobler, sweeter song of praise to God and the Lamb for evermore. Amen.

[y] Ps. iv. 8. [z] Ps. lxxi. 14.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ENABLE us, O Lord, the searcher of all hearts, to desire above all things that state of heart which pleases thee. Thou "resistest the proud, but givest grace unto the humble.[a] "The proud thou knowest afar off;"[b]—thou art "able to abase"[c] them, and wilt eventually bring them very low. In mercy, therefore, be pleased to bring down the native pride of our hearts, help us to "humble ourselves"[d] before thee, O Lord, and find the level in our own estimation, which properly belongs to creatures so mean and so vile;—the heirs of mortality,

[a] James iv. 6. [b] Ps. cxxxviii. 6.
[c] Dan. iv. 37. [d] James iv. 10.

"children of wrath by nature,"[e] and "enemies to thee in our mind by wicked works."[f] What are we, O Lord, or what do we possess, that we should exalt ourselves? everything properly our own is cause for shame, humiliation, and repentance; while it is the height of wickedness to make *thy* gifts, in which alone we could glory—an occasion for anything but thankful praise. If we have been placed in more comfortable circumstances in life than many around us,—if we have enjoyed an overflowing cup of temporal mercies,—been the possessors of reason, of health, of strength,—these have been thy gracious but sovereign gifts to us, revocable at any moment.

Especially if thou hast been pleased to grant us such a merciful shelter from the temptations which abound in this wicked world,—that we have been in any measure preserved from its outward pollutions,—grant that instead of pride and

[e] *Eph. ii. 3.* [f] Coloss. i. 21.

self-sufficiency, this gracious distinction may be productive of humble gratitude to thee, who hast so kindly fenced our path, and preserved us from snares which we have neither wisdom nor strength to escape. It is an unspeakable favour that thou didst order our birth in a Christian land, and hast placed us within the bounds of thy visible church: if really desirous of being found among thy people who are "called, and chosen, and faithful,"[g] help us to regard these mercies as introductory to those of a higher order; —but forbid that any of us should rest in these outward circumstances as if they necessarily implied the safety of the soul. Let nothing short of the consciousness that our souls are created anew by the energy of thy Almighty Spirit, fully satisfy us on this most deeply important subject. Teach us to inquire with diligent and scrupulous care what may be esteemed sufficient proofs of so great and

[g] Rev. xvii. 14.

blessed a change. Lead us to reason rightly on any change of affections, of desires, of pursuits, which may justly be esteemed to be the effects of thy grace on our hearts; but especially grant us that which alone can fully satisfy a truly awakened conscience; even "the Spirit of adoption, whereby we may cry Abba, Father, and find thy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."[h] By being filled with thy love, "clothed with humility,"[i] and having "the law of kindness in our tongue,"[k] may it be made fully manifest that we are no longer "foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, nor living in malice, hateful, and hating one another,"[l] but that "the kindness and love of God our Saviour," hath appeared "unto us, and saved us not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, by the

[h] Rom. viii. 15, 16.
[i] 1 Peter v. 5.
[k] Prov. xxxi. 26.
[l] Titus iii. 3—6.

washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost; shed on us abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Teach us "in lowliness of mind ever to esteem others better than ourselves,"[m] and thus may anger, envy, and every other hell-born corruption be mortified within us. Make us, O blessed Jesus, to learn of thee, who art "meek and lowly in heart;"[n] teach us to "sit down at thy feet, and to receive of thy words."[o] "Cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."[p]

May genuine humility of soul be made apparent in our intercourse with each other, by the meekness and forbearance which so well become such feeble and sinful creatures.

Help us to praise thee for the mercies of the night, and to enter on the duties

[m] Phil. ii. 3.
[n] Matt. xi. 29.
[o] Deut. xxxiii. 3.
[p] 2 Cor. x. 5.

of the day with willingness and zeal in the exercise of a prayerful spirit Make us diligent in acquiring the know ledge and experience which may be use ful to ourselves and others; and teach u how to make a profitable use of our pre sent degree of information. Instruct u how to apply general principles to par ticular cases, and making thy holy wor our rule, may we daily learn "the wa in which we should walk,"[q] and find th merciful care guarding us from evil o every side.

Encouraged by thy gracious willing ness to hear and answer prayer, we woul ask, O Lord, that the same blessing which we desire for ourselves, may als be multiplied on those who are united t us in the endearing ties of relationshi and friendship; and to thee alone, mos merciful God, be the praise and glor for present mercies, and eternal salvatio through Jesus Christ our Lord and Sa *viour.* Amen.

[q] Ps. cxliii. 8.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O Lord God of holiness and truth, who hast said that "the foolish shall not stand in thy sight,"[a] and that "the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God,"[b] we confess that by our great and manifold sins we have unfitted ourselves alike for present intercourse with thee, and for future entrance into thy presence. We were born in sin, and we have loved, and continued in the apostacy of our first parents, notwithstanding thy commands to return, and thy threatenings against disobedience. Thou mightest justly have left us to ourselves, to find the misery of the paths in

[a] Ps. v. 5. [b] 1 Cor. vi. 9.

which we have preferred to walk; but thou hast most mercifully formed and revealed a way in which thou canst be gracious even unto sinners, and receive them into thy favour notwithstanding their repeated provocations. We trust thou hast given (at least to some of) us, the earnest desire to be made partakers of this thy mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. O that "faith of thine own operation"[c] may be wrought in our hearts, enabling us more fully to apprehend both our danger and our remedy, and to embrace the salvation which thou hast made known, with the most ardent desire and joy and love. Grant that our souls may be washed from sin in the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus, and that by faith in the merit of His spotless life, "righteousness may be imputed"[d] unto us, as it has been to those in every age, whose "hearts thou hast purified by faith."[e]

[c] Col. ii. 12. [d] Rom. iv. 11.
[e] Acts xv. 9.

May His "righteousness, which is unto all and upon all them that believe,"[f] be reckoned unto us, and put upon us as a beautiful garment; so that being cleansed by atoning blood, justified by the Saviour's righteousness, and sanctified by the "renewing of the Holy Ghost,"[g] thou mayest delight in thy own work, and say of us individually, as of thy Church collectively, "Thou art all fair, my love, there is no spot in thee."[h]

Being "justified by faith, may we have peace with thee, O God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him may we have access by faith into the grace wherein thy people stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."[i] Teach us to "glory in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and may our hope be such as will not make us ashamed; the love of God being

[f] Rom. iii. 22.
[g] Titus iii. 5.
[h] Cant. iv. 7.
[i] Rom. v. 1—5.

shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us." In our walk through life make us "blameless and harmless,"[j] manifestly "the children of God, without rebuke, shining as lights in the world, and holding forth the word of life," as a torch to enlighten the path of those around. May "the breast-plate of righteousness,"[k] together with all other parts of the christian armour, be our defence against the spiritual foes who encompass us around. Teach us how to use them with perseverance and success; and give us a final and eternal victory to thy glory through Jesus Christ. "Work in us in all things both to will and to do of thy good pleasure,"[l] and make us to go in the path of thy commandments, and to delight in it.[m] May our understandings be well informed in thy will, our consciences tender, and our affections heavenly. May our minds be occupied with

[j] Phil. ii. 15, 16.
[k] Eph. vi. 14.
[l] Phil. ii. 13.
[m] See Ps. cxix. 35.

spiritual subjects; and may thy blessing on our meditations render them profitable to our souls. Deliver us from the slothfulness of mind on these things, which results from want of love; and make us delight in the contemplation of those subjects, which fill the minds of glorified spirits with unspeakable delight.

In the abundance of thy mercy, grant us, gracious Lord, while "following hard after thee"[n] here upon earth, such "full assurance of hope"[o] of thy heavenly glory, that we may look forward to the hour of death rather with desire than with dismay; and be enabled to trust that thou wilt impart all needful strength and support in that solemn hour when human help can be no longer of any avail. O grant that we may "give all diligence to make our calling and election sure;"[p] believing thy promise that "doing these things we shall never fall, but that so, an

[n] Ps. lxiii. 8. [o] Heb. vi. 11.
[p] 2 Pet. i. 10, 11.

entrance shall be ministered unto us abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We thank thee for this special favour manifested towards some whom we have known and loved while here; and beseech thee to make us partakers of the faith with which they followed thee through life, and of the peace vouchsafed to them in death.

Help us to come to thee, O Lord, for constant cleansing from daily pollution, for "wisdom to direct our way, and strength to do thy will" in everything.

Be pleased, almighty and most merciful God, to bless all the members of thy universal church throughout the world, and glorify thyself in their holy walk and their abundant fruitfulness. Increase their numbers, and bring us all who are here assembled before thee to share with them the glory of thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits of Jesus Christ *our Lord*. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O God of our life, and of all our mercies, we join together this morning to thank thee for thy continued favours towards us as a family; and to entreat that the kind care which has been so long extended over us, may be graciously continued through the day on which we have now entered, and to the end of our earthly course. We have all been the recipients of innumerable mercies and blessings; but, alas! our thankfulness has borne no proportion either to their multitude or their greatness. O that now at length our gratitude may be enkindled into a lively flame of love, and be manifested in willing obedience to all thy will. Thy commands are indeed most

gracious, and blessed are they who by thy Holy Spirit are taught to love and follow them. Happy would be the nation or the family regulated entirely by their directions. Make us truly thankful for any approach towards such a state; and be pleased to grant that both publicly, privately, and individually, thy word may be more loved, thy commands more reverenced, and thy threatenings more dreaded throughout our country. May it be our favoured lot through the whole course of our lives to be associated with those who love and fear thy holy name: may they be our chosen companions and our dearest friends. Leave us not to our own direction, nor suffer us to follow our own wayward inclinations in fixing or altering our lot or position in life, but do thou "choose our inheritance for us;"[a] and make us to desire that it should rather be among the poor and afflicted of thy people, than in the

[a] Ps. xlvii. 4.

greatest worldly prosperity among those who are strangers to thy saving grace. And wherever thou mayest see fit to place us, and whatever portion of earthly things thou mayest give unto us, grant us grace to glorify thee by diligent attention to the duties of our station, and by devoting all that we have, and all that we are, unreservedly to thy service. Mercifully accept the unworthy sacrifice, and "remember us, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people;[b] O visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy chosen, rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, and glory with thine inheritance."

Give us thankfulness for present mercies, and dependence on thee for the strength and wisdom needful for future trials. Suffer us neither to rush into difficulties, nor to go out of the right way in order to avoid them, but thou being in all things "our ruler and guide, grant

[b] Ps. cvi. 4, 5.

that we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal;"[c] and be pleased to "direct our hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."[d]

O "God of patience and consolation,"[e] mercifully be pleased to comfort and relieve those of thy beloved people who "now for a season, if need be, are in heaviness through manifold temptations."[f] Relieve those who are suffering from "the oppression of the enemy,"[g] and "deliver those who through fear of death are subject to bondage."[h] Comfort the desponding with thy free and gracious promises, strengthen the weak in faith, and reclaim the wanderers. Many, O Lord, "whom thou lovest, are sick,"[i] or destitute, or suffering from painful bereavements, or other kinds of grievous afflic-

[c] Collect for fourth Sunday after Trinity.
[d] 2 Thess. iii. 5.
[e] Rom. xv. 5.
[f] 1 Pet. i. 6.
[g] Ps. xliii. 2.
[h] Heb. ii. 15.
[i] John xi. 3.

tions. Put it into the hearts of those who have it in their power, to relieve their necessities, or to sympathize with their adversity; and while communicating to them of thy temporal bounties, and seeking to support their hopes by the promises of thy word, may they find their own souls refreshed, comforted, and blessed. May[k] the sympathy of the Lord Jesus with His suffering people, and His advocacy for them before the throne of God, be sources of unfailing consolation to those who are bowed down either with a sense of sin, or with any of the manifold trials of this present life. Teach us after His gracious example to "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and to weep with them that weep."[l] And whenever thou shalt be pleased to send afflictions upon us, mercifully support us by the consolations of thy grace, make them effectual to our profit, give us patience

[k] See Heb. xiv. 4, and 1 John ii. 1.
[l] Rom. xii. 15.

under them, and gracious deliverance due season. Be with us in the employments and occurrences of the day; an bless with us all for whom it is our dut and privilege to pray, for Jesus Christ sake. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

We thank thee, O most gracious God, for the renewed and unnumbered mercies of another day, and another week. They are not only exceedingly great; but entirely undeserved; for as the creatures of thy power we are entirely dependent on thy free bounty; and by our sins we have forfeited every title to thy continued loving kindness. Yet notwithstanding all, thou delightest to bless us, and to surround us with manifestations of thy goodness and thy grace. We thank thee for the (portion of) bodily health, mental tranquillity, and temporal abundance with which thou hast favoured us. We bless thee for a quiet habitation, for domestic

peace, and national safety. We glorify thy name for granting us the means of grace, and for giving us any hope of eternal glory. We adore thee for thy promises of continuing and completing the work of thy grace, wherever thou hast commenced it,[a] and pray that we may individually be distinguished by this inestimable favour, and prove "thy loving-kindness to be better than life."[b] We also thank thee for any mercies which may have come to us under the disguise of afflictions. Make us truly to believe that thou "dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men,"[c] and therefore to be led earnestly to inquire the cause of such visitations; and may we learn much of thy will and experience, much of thy love while thou shalt see good to continue their pressure. Though "not joyous, but grievous, may they yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness," and

[a] See 1 Phil. 6, and 1 Cor. 1. 8.
[b] *Ps. lxiii.* 3. [c] Lament. iii. 33.

prepare us for greater manifestations of thy grace.[d] May constantly deepening convictions of sin and weakness be graciously accompanied with more enlarged and comforting views of the glory and mercy of Christ our Lord, and with increasing confidence in His promises of help and "salvation to all who call upon Him."[e] May we rest our souls upon them, and find them the sure words of the God of truth and love.

Suffer us not to forget, O Lord, that thy multiplied mercies become to us so many sources of great responsibility, which, in our fallen and sinful state, we are utterly unable to bear. O that a deep sense of this humbling but important truth, may bring us with all the desire of our souls to the Lord Jesus, entreating him as our surety to answer, on our behalf, all the demands of thy holy law; and as our Saviour, to deliver us

[d] Heb. xii. 11. [e] Rom. x. 13.

from the condemning, polluting, and reigning power of sin.

We adore thee, O Lord, for the revelation of the gracious characters He bears for the salvation of His people; praying that we may each personally know His grace and be favoured with assurance of interest in His great salvation. May the same blessings be vouchsafed to our dear absent relatives and friends; and may increasing multitudes, both in our own country and throughout the world, be partakers of His mercy and live to His praise. Be pleased, O Lord, to bless our gracious sovereign with thy favour and protection. Give her the hearts of her subjects, and direct her to rule over them for their good and thy glory. May the royal family, with the nobility and rulers of our land, be "remembered by thee for good,"[f] and enabled to fill their responsible situations for the benefit of the community. May our country, hitherto

[f] *Neh.* xiii. 31.

so favoured with liberty, peace, and gospel light, be still distinguished by thy mercy superabounding over all our aggravated transgressions; grant to us national humiliation for our sins, and cause us to "turn unto thee from whom we long have deeply revolted." [g]

O God of long-suffering mercy, thou hast again spared us, notwithstanding the provocations of another week, to reach its closing hours in comfort and in peace; and the light which we expect in the morning to beam upon us, (should we again awake on earth,) will be that of the day which thou hast sanctified to thyself. May our hearts be prepared to welcome its return, and to delight in the appropriate occupation of its hours. May thy name be greatly glorified throughout the world during its course. May those inhabitants of eastern climes on whom its dawn has even now arisen, be taught the value of those precious hours, of which

[g] Isa. xxxi. 6.

many of them, at present, are in utter ignorance. Wherever the light of thy truth has beamed on those "regions of the shadow of death,"[h] grant that much of thy glory may be manifest at this time in their public assemblies and private devotions. When the arrival of the morning shall direct *us* to look to thee, the Lord of the Sabbath, for mercies suitable to thine own day, may they be abundantly vouchsafed, so that many in all parts of our land may "hear the voice of the Son of God and live."[i] And when the sun shall set on us, may the blessings of the Christian Sabbath, and thy benediction upon it, still rest on more western countries. In like manner, thy mercies, O Lord, have run through all the ages of the world. We thank thee for the spiritual blessings which thou hast granted, through the course of the years that are passed, to all the members of thy church on earth,—we entreat thy special mercies on ourselves

[h] *Matt.* iv. 16. [i] John v. 25.

during our sojourn here, and we join in the supplication that, when our "days shall be fulfilled, and we shall sleep with our fathers,"[k] multitudes foreknown by thee as "vessels of mercy,"[l] at present in the ignorance of the natural mind, or not yet born, may learn thy saving Name, and rejoice in the light of thy sanctifying truth.

Grant unto us, merciful Lord, that the future part of our respective lives, however long or short, may be spent far more with a view to thy glory than any previous portion has been. Cancel the sins of former days, and impute not our transgressions to us, but grant that the sacrifice of thy Son our Lord, may satisfy thy justice on our behalf; and that for His sake the Holy Spirit may be bestowed upon us for all renewing, sanctifying, and strengthening purposes; enabling us to live as thy servants, and preparing us for entering thy immediate presence at

[k] 2 Sam. vii. 12. [l] Rom. ix. 23.

death. We ask every mercy in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is worthy with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to receive all honour and praise world without end. Amen,

FOR THE MORNING OF A SACRAMENTAL OCCASION.

In addition to the usual engagements of the day, some of our number are expecting the privilege of attending thy table, O Lord. May we be sensible of thy especial presence in this sweet and solemn ordinance. May our souls be prepared for it by thy grace, and refreshed by partaking of the benefits of the blessed Saviour's sufferings unto death, as our bodies are supported by bread and wine. In this emblematic manner, so well suited to the infantile state of the church on earth, may we see "Jesus Christ evidently set forth crucified among us,"[a] and being enabled to reach forth

[a] Gal. iii. 1.

the hand of faith, may we be made happy partakers of all the merit of His most holy life, and His sin-atoning death. May we find our repentance deepened, our faith strengthened, and our hope encouraged, by thy blessing on this thine own appointment; and may we "follow on"[b] with more ardour to "know the Lord," believing His gracious promises, living according to His commands, and desiring the consummation of blessedness in His heavenly kingdom.

[b] Hos. vi. 3.

FOR THE EVENING OF THE SACRAMENT.

We thank thee, gracious Lord, for the institution of the feast of love which some of us have had the privilege of attending this day. O that by thy blessing on this and all other means of grace, our "faith and love may grow exceedingly,"[a] and that our "profiting may appear unto all men."[b]

Make this ordinance a blessing not only to those who partake of it, but to those also who never have attended it, by producing a careful self-examination of the cause of absence from it. Enlighten our understanding respecting its

[a] 2 Thess. i. 3. [b] 1 Tim. iv. 15.

nature, and the persons for whom it is intended; and be pleased to give that penitential sense of sin, and that desire to come to the Lord Jesus, without which, participation in the Lord's supper must be an unmeaning ceremony; but the experience of which is the only required preparation for this sacred feast. Unite us as a family around thy table, and grant that we all may ultimately sit down at "the marriage supper of the Lamb,"[c] in thy kingdom of love and glory.

[c] Rev. xix. 9.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

DOXOLOGIES, &c.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion

of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. Amen.[a]

May the Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace. Amen.[b]

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.[c]

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.[d]

Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.[e]

[a] 2 Cor. 13, 14. [b] Numb. vii. 24—26.
[c] *1 Tim. i. 17.* [d] Eph. iii. 20, 21. [e] Jude 24, 25.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be with us this day, (or this night,) and for evermore. Amen.

THE END.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY G. J. PALMER, SAVOY STREET, STRAND.

J. HATCHARD AND SON

Have lately published the following works suited for

FAMILY AND PRIVATE DEVOTION.

---

1. A FORM OF PRAYERS, Selected and Composed for the Use of a Family principally consisting of Young Persons. Thirteenth Edition. 12mo. price 2s. 6d. cloth.

2. FAMILY PRAYERS. By the late HENRY THORNTON, ESQ., M.P. Sixteenth Edition. 12mo. price 3s. cloth.

3. FAMILY PRAYERS. By the late W. WILBERFORCE, ESQ. Edited by his Son, the Rev. R. I. WILBERFORCE, Archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire; Vicar of Burton-Agnes; late Fellow of Oriel College. Ninth Edition. Foolscap 8vo. price 1s. 6d.

4. FAMILY PRAYERS for Every Day of the Week, selected from various portions of the Holy Bible, with References. Third Edition. 12mo. price 2s. 6d.

5. NEWLY ARRANGED MANUAL for COMMUNICANTS at the LORD'S SUPPER, including the Service for the Holy Communion. Price 3s. bound.

6. A COMPANION to the ALTAR, with Occasional Prayers. By GEORGE A. E. MARSH, A.M., Rector of Bangor, Flintshire, and late Minister of St. Mary's Chapel Park-street, Grosvenor-square. Third Edition, price 1s. 6d., or 2s. sheep, and 3s. bound in calf.

7. FAMILY PRAYERS, chiefly from ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON. 18mo. price 2s. cloth.

8. REV. H. TATTAM'S HELPS to DEVOTION. Morning and Evening Prayers for every day in the week, adapted for the use of Families. 12mo. price 2s. 6d.

9. FORMS of PRAYERS adapted for the use of Schools and Young Persons. By J. SNOW. Price 2s. 6d. cloth.

10. PRIVATE PRAYERS for YOUNG PERSONS. By M. A. Fcap. price 2s. cloth.

11. FAMILY PRAYERS for EVERY DAY in the WEEK. By CLERICUS. 18mo. 1s. 6d. cloth.

12. PRAYERS and OFFICES of DEVOTION for Families, and for Particular Persons, upon most Occasions. By BENJAMIN JENKS. Altered and Improved by the Rev. CHARLES SIMEON. 12mo. price 4s. 6d., or 18mo. price 3s. plainly bound.

13. A COURSE of MORNING and EVENING PRAYERS, for the use of the Families of the Poor. Price 6d., or 5s. per dozen.

14. SHORT PRAYERS FOR EVERY DAY in the WEEK, to be used either in the Family or Private. By the Rev. RICHARD SHEPHERD, M.A., Incumbent of St. Margaret's, Stanstead, Herts, and late Curate of St. Mary's, Whitechapel. Price 2d., or 1s. 6d. per dozen,

By the same Author.

15. THE CHURCH CATECHISM EXPLAINED. Price 4d., or 3s. per dozen.

16. A FEW PLAIN SHORT PRAYERS, intended to be sent with each set of Baby Linen lent to Poor Women. Price 3d., or 2s. 6d. per dozen.

By the same Author.

17. PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS. Price 3d. each, or 2s. 6d. per dozen.